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Family
Devotions



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FAMILY DEVOTIONS



FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR FOUR WEEKS.

WITH

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS FOR ESPECIAL DAYS
AND OCCASIONS.

BY THE

VERY REVEREND HENRY LAW, M.A.,
DEAN OF GLOUCESTER.

"Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and
and grace to help in time of need."—HEB. iv. 16.



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THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,

ETC. ETC. ETC.

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's gratifying acquiescence permits me to associate your name with this Manual of Devotion.

It cannot be but that your Lordship's noble career must endear you to the philanthropist who sympathises with his fellow-man, to the patriot who loves his native land, to the Christian who is devoted to the cause of Christ. I deeply

share these feelings; but they prompt not this address.

More hallowed thoughts now guide my pen.

When your Lordship's counsels were called to direct matters of supreme importance, it was mine to be familiar with your oft-repeated watchword, "Sursum corda." You were ever forward to remind that all dependence must be on our prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. Your example and your precept pointed to the throne of grace as the believer's mainspring of hope and success. It is the knowledge that in prayer you work and prosper and prevail which moves me to present this volume to you. I am but just, while I accord respect.

I have good hope, that, in the providence of God, your Lordship's most im-

portant trophies in the cause of England, of England's Church, of true religion, of Gospel-light and Reformation-liberty, are still before you. Your past has been no meagre blessing to us. May a bright future far exceed.

An awful struggle is now at our doors. Your Lordship must take foremost stand amongst the champions of our faith. And I rejoice in the persuasion, that on your knees you will gain wisdom, boldness, intrepid zeal, unwavering constancy. The result as to our beloved Church and country is at present veiled in darkness. A nation's guilt may be a nation's scourge. But to your Lordship, while you strive valiantly for the truth, drawing help from the only wise God, our Saviour, the issue is gloriously sure. "Be thou faithful unto

death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Go on, my Lord, and accomplish deliverances for us in the mighty power of prayer.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's faithful servant,

HENRY LAW.

DEANERY, GLOUCESTER,

July 1868.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
First Week,	1
Second Week,	69
Third Week,	137
Fourth Week,	207

ESPECIAL DAYS.

Christmas Day—Morning,	273
Christmas Day—Evening,	279
Last Day of the Year—Evening,	284
First Day of the Year—Morning,	289
Ash Wednesday—Morning,	295
Ash Wednesday—Evening,	300
Good Friday—Morning,	305
Good Friday—Evening,	310
Easter Day—Morning,	315
Easter Day—Evening,	320

	PAGE
Ascension Day—Morning,	325
Whit Sunday—Morning,	330
Whit Sunday—Evening,	335
Trinity Sunday—Morning,	340
Communion Sunday—Morning,	345
Communion Sunday—Evening,	350

ESPECIAL OCCASIONS.

COLLECTS WHICH MAY BE INSERTED IN THE PRECEDING PRAYERS.

Sickness,	355
Sickness unto Death,	356
Death,	357
Burial,	357
Recovery,	358
Baptism,	359
Domestic Anxiety,	360
Journey,	361
Return to Home,	362
Prevalent Sickness,	362
Civil Commotion,	363
Distress of Weather,	364
Harvest,	365
Religious Meeting,	366

CONCLUSION TO PRAYERS.

OUR Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Al-

CONCLUSION TO PRAYERS.

mighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be amongst us and remain with us always. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us : the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us : the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, and from the Holy Ghost the Comforter, be unto us now and evermore. Amen.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep us. The Lord mercifully with His favour look upon us ; and so fill us with all spiritual benediction and grace, that we may so live in this life, that in the world to come, we may have life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

HOLY, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory : glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. At the commencement of this blessed day we desire to unite with all the company of heaven and all the saints on earth in uplifting the voice of adoration and praise. Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Thee, O Father of mercies, Thou God of all grace and love. We thank Thee that, in the multitude of Thy tender mercies, in the riches of Thy pitiful compassion, Thou hast been pleased to erect this throne of grace, before which we now most humbly bow. We bless Thee that here free favour reigns. We bless Thee ~~that~~ at all times and in

all places, we have open access to it through the blood of Thy dear Son. We bless Thee that the veil is open, and that in His great name we may ever approach, and find Thee ready to hear, waiting to be gracious, arrayed in smiles of love, bidding us touch the sceptre of Thy sovereign mercy, inviting us to pour out every want and desire of our hearts, and promising to give more than we can ask or think.

Thus entering into Thine immediate presence, from our inmost souls, we beseech Thee to accept especial thanks for the gift of the Sabbath-day. We recognise Thy heavenly ordinance. We read Thy purposes of loving-kindness in commanding all work to cease, that weary minds may rest ; that weary bodies may recruit their powers ; and that Thy faithful servants, in rejoicing multitudes, may throng Thy earthly courts, and openly avow allegiance to their heavenly Lord. We render fervent praise for this inestimable boon—this record of Thy dear Son's

resurrection from the dead—this season of holy service—this emblem of the days of heaven.

But while we thus look up and bless, shame and confusion overwhelm our hearts. Thou art worthy of all praise. We are unworthy to bring any. Thy throne is holiness. Our lips are all impure. While we adore Thee for Sabbath-grace, we remember the past iniquity of our holiest things. What profanations and neglect of this precious day condemn us as despisers of Thy loving decree! What irreverence in Thy worship, what cold formality in prayer and praise, what utterance of lip with absence of heart convict us as most miserable sinners! We confess that with seeming reverence we have added provocation to impiety. We bewail the aggravations of our guilt. We acknowledge that unless Thy compassions failed not, we should have been cast away from Thy presence, and left abandoned by Thy Holy Spirit. But for Thy dear Son's sake hearken to our peti-

FIRST WEEK.

tion, and sprinkle all the hours of all past Sabbaths with the atoning merits of His all-precious blood. May the pleadings of the cross outcry the accusations of misused service.

Grant, oh grant, we earnestly implore Thee, that this day may witness deep improvement in us. Vouchsafe to us the wondrous blessings in rich abundance which the Sabbath was designed to impart. May it be wholly consecrated to Thee. May we, in spirit, soar far from earth. May our hearts be fast barred against admission of worldly thoughts or cares. May our souls be hid in Christ with Thee. Send Thy peace, passing all understanding, as a flood into our tranquil minds. In public and in private draw us nearer unto Thee. May our meditations of Thee be sweet. May our outward exercises be life and liberty and joy. May we drink deeply of the refreshing streams proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. May we feast on the *heaven-sent manna* of Thy precious Word, and

thus gather strength for the upward race. May we anoint afresh the shield of faith, that we may be able to quench all Satan's fiery darts.

Hear our cry for all the ministers of Thine everlasting gospel. May Christ so richly fill ~~their~~ hearts, that all their ministrations may be a sweet savour of His grace. May He be uplifted in all pulpits as the only hope and strength and wisdom and redemption of His people. May we learn in the sanctuary new lessons of His perfect salvation. May our hearts be more and more knit to Him. May this be the Spirit's wonder-working day to us and all the congregations of the living God. Hear us, answer us, bless us. All we ask is in Jesus' name, and for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

O God the Father, our great Creator, our gracious preserver, who art ever loading us with loving-kindness and tender mercies, we bless Thee, we praise Thee. O God the Son, who by the shedding of Thy most precious blood, hast made us Thy purchased possession, and hast redeemed us from all iniquity, we bless Thee, we praise Thee. O God the Holy Ghost, who hast taught us our need as sinners, and hast revealed the finished salvation to us, and hast enriched us with spiritual consolations in heavenly places, we bless Thee, we praise Thee. O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons, one God, what more could have been done for our souls and for our salvation, which Thou hast not freely and mightily accomplished !

The heavens are high above the earth, but greater far are Thy mercies to usward. We cannot count the stars which

bespangle the canopy of the skies, or the sands which begird the seas, or the drops which compose the ocean's boundlessness, but all these are finite, while infinity is the only measure of Thy grace.

Fresh proof has encircled us this day. We have been called to sacred rest. Earthly work has ceased. Respite has been ours from worldly care and toil. Thy courts have opened their doors, admitting us to the holy fellowship of united worship. Thy ministers have come forth to teach and to premonish, to warn us of the perils of our pilgrimage, to proclaim Jesus in the glories of His work, and to assure us of completeness in Him.

The sacred hours now reach their close. Grant that we may be thus reminded that earthly Sabbaths will soon all cease. O quicken our spirits that we may use each as if the last. Enable us to regard Thy courts as the gate of heaven, and the threshold of the eternal world. May we use our privileges with solemn thought, that the Judge standeth at the door.

Animate us with the precious joy, that within the veil congregations never disperse, and adorations never cease, and no flesh grows weary, and no affections flag, and no thoughts wander, and praise never droops, but the whole atmosphere is adoring love. Blessed Jesus, hasten the time. When, when will this once be?

While we thus magnify Thee, O God, our God, for all the precious opportunities of our Sabbath days, we beseech Thee to guard our minds from making any ordinances our stay or our trust. We confess the treacherous proneness of our hearts to hew out broken cisterns, and to rest on outward helps. Give wings to our faith, that we may rise through earthly forms and services to thine immediate presence. May our poor enfeebled prayers this day show us more and more of our emptiness and vanity and sin. Deepen in us the conviction that our most fervent praises, and most lowly confessions, need to be repented of, and our bitterest tears of penitence need

the washing of the only cleansing blood. Thus may our best services bring us nearer to the cross, and prompt the hearty cry, None but Jesus, none but Jesus.

Pour down Thy Holy Spirit largely into our hearts, to give abiding life to the lessons of this day. May the seed take deep root, and yield abundant fruits of heavenly-mindedness to the praise of the glory of Thy grace. May all who see us take knowledge of us that we have been with our God this day. May we reflect the rays of the Sun of righteousness, and by holy example dispel the mists of surrounding ignorance and unbelief.

We cannot leave Thy glorious throne without humbly presenting the whole family of man in the arms of our faith. What need, what wretchedness, what misery, what darkness, what iniquity! Who are we that we should be made to differ? We would manifest our grace by making supplication for the graceless! How easy for Thee to speak the word, and

darkness shall flee, and the lifeless shall live.

Blessed Jesu, Thou didst come to seek and to save the lost; bring, we beseech Thee, many stray sheep into Thy gospel-fold.

We commend to Thy special care this night the sons and daughters of sickness and affliction. Be near to dying beds. Soothe the pillows of the suffering. Speak peace to the contrite and the broken-hearted. Sprinkle accusing consciences with the blood of Thy cross.

Be with us, when we retire from family communion to the stillness of our own chambers. Give us boldness of access to Thee, and may we breathe out the inmost secrets of our souls. Thou knowest all before we speak, but help us freely to speak, that we may find relief and pardon and comfort. May we lie down at peace with Thee, our consciences, and all mankind. Give us faith to expect full reply. We ask all, trusting in Thy grace and love. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

BLESSED Jesu, we draw near as a family with this morning's light to laud and magnify Thee our God and Saviour. Help us from on high with Thy Holy Spirit—for in Thy light only can we behold the light of Thy countenance, by Thy teaching only can we know Thy precious worth. Thou must open our eyes to see, our hearts to feel, our lips to praise.

We bless Thee that a messenger from heaven was sent to reveal that Thou art Jesus unto us. Be it unto us according to all the breadth and length and depth and height of this Thy glorious name. We are real and great sinners, be Thou a real and great Jesus unto us. Be thou Jesus unto us in every moment of the day on which we now are entering, in every circumstance, in our going out and coming in, in our downsitting and uprising, in our study of Thy holy Word,

in our converse with others, in our closet meditations. Be Thou ever very near. We are blind as to what Thy providence may ordain, but we fear no ill if Thou art our sun, our shield, our stay, our refuge, and our present friend. Be thou our Jesus in every time of need; when things are adverse, when things are prosperous, when heart and flesh fail, in the hour of closing life, when we stand before the great white throne, and throughout the ages of eternity.

We know that in us, that is, in our flesh, there dwelleth no good thing. We bewail our many and our mighty sins. We loathe ourselves because of our original vileness, our deep and innate corruptions, and the iniquities of our every hour from the cradle to this time. We lie in dust and ashes before the majesty of our God. But in all our misery as sinners, we look to Thee and our hearts fear not. We triumph, and we glory in Thy saving name. It is a treasure-house of all riches for us. Out of its fulness

may we this day receive. Thus may we advance to the duties which call us, happy and strong in Thee, and in Thy great and true salvation.

Heavenly Father, grant that the sweet savour of our Sabbath privileges may continue with us throughout this day. May our profiting from holy teaching be deep and abiding. May it be seen of all men that we are making sure progress in the narrow way of life.

We are entering anew on our allotted course, grant that we may take each new step in newness of spirit, with hearts entirely weaned from the world, dead to outward enticements, wholly consecrated unto Thee. We shall have to wrestle not with flesh and blood only, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places: fortify us with the whole armour prepared by Thy grace. Garrison our hearts with heavenly aid. Let every inlet of sense be occupied by spiritual

guards. Bar the gates of our fortress, that no evil may gain admittance. Keep us as the very apple of thine eye. Keep us as the vine which Thy right hand has planted. Keep us by Thy mighty power through faith unto eternal life. Lead us as the sheep of Thy fold in paths of righteousness for Thy name's sake, making us to feed in green pastures, and to lie down beside still waters. Let Thy glory brightly shine before our eyes. Let it be the one aim of all our words and works.

Hear us in behalf of all who ministered to Thy congregations yesterday. May their own souls be abundantly nourished by the truths which their lips proclaimed. May they precede Thy militant servants as standard-bearers of the Lord. Bless, too, all who publicly worshipped with us in the sanctuary. May they and we be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of surrounding evil, shining as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life.

We mutually as a family implore Thy

most especial blessings on each other. We are brought into this close union by Thy good providence; grant that we may be fellow-helpers to each other's faith, and provoke each other to good works, and encourage each other to run with alacrity the heavenward race. May nearness to each other on earth lead to nearness in the eternal home. Smile on the hearty desires of this domestic circle; and bless us now and evermore for Thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS LORD, we adore Thee as God of God, Light of light, very God of very God. All power is given unto Thee in heaven and in earth. Almighty Saviour, accept the evening sacrifice of Thy humble and most unworthy servants. From the throne of Thy glory look in tender compassion on Thy poor suppliants. Thou hast died that we may live with Thee for ever. Help us by Thy grace that we may live with Thee, and to Thee, during the little speck of earthly sojourn.

The close of this day reminds us that the time is short, and that the end comes on apace. Grant that we may ever stand with our lamps burning, and our loins girt. When Thou shalt knock may we open unto Thee immediately, and spring forward rejoicingly to welcome Thy return. Pour Thy Spirit so richly *into* our hearts, that every day may be

as heaven begun, and our last day may, indeed, be heaven attained. We think of death, and we remember judgment. O Thou who hast tasted death, in the hour of our death be with us. Let Thy rod and Thy staff comfort us. Let the brightness of Thy presence dispel all gloom. Extend thy right hand to lead us through the shadowy vale. When heart and flesh fail, be Thou the strength of our heart, and our portion for ever. Let Thy sweet voice sound sweetly in the ears of faith : It is I, be not afraid : Fear thou not, for I am with thee : be not dismayed for I am thy God. When our ears close to earthly sounds, may heavenly melody delight. When eyes grow dim to earth, may they open in perfect clearness on Thee, the altogether lovely. Drive Satan far away. Suffer him not to harass or molest. We are not ignorant of his malice and devices. Great will be his wrath when he sees that his time is short. His last opportunity will be his fiercest. His last darts will be most

sharply barbed. We beseech Thee, by all Thy sufferings for us on the accursed tree, spread Thy shield around us. We beseech Thee, by Thine agony and bloody sweat, defeat his last efforts, and give us a joyful and abundant entrance into Thy heavenly kingdom. If it be Thy blessed will that pains should try these dissolving frames, may lamb-like patience calm our breasts; and may Thy supporting arm make us more than conquerors over nature's last throes.

While the close of this week's first working day prompts these large desires, the review of it casts us into the lowest depths of shame. While we ask the greatest, we feel that we are not worthy of the least of all Thy mercies. Our merited portion is confusion of face. What duties have we left undone! Into what evil have we sadly run! Neglect of due service condemns us. Shortcomings and insufficiencies bear witness to our unprofitableness. Manifold transgressions cry, Unclean, unclean! We

have had opportunities this day of speaking for Thee; they were poorly used, or wholly abused, and now they are for ever fled. May Thy pierced hand take of Thine own blood and obliterate the record of this day. We urge Thy Spirit-taught prayer. Blot out as a thick cloud our transgressions, and as a cloud our sins. We plead the heaven-sent promise, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We remember the full price paid by Thee on the cross; and we exult in the assurance, There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. Thus trusting in the work of free grace, we retire to seek Thy face again on our bedside knees.

We remember, heavenly Father, our wondrous privilege of being called to make intercession for others also. Precepts impel—promises invite—examples give encouragement. We are taught, *The Lord turned the captivity of Job*

when he prayed for his friends. A prayerful Christian is a world-wide blessing. How would this earth blossom and fructify exceedingly if praying lips gave Thee no rest. Thus we wrestle with Thee for all near and dear to us by ties of kindred, friendship, and social union. Enrich them with all grace. Grant that we may be one in Christ now, and one for evermore. May we together fight the good fight of faith, together lay hold of eternal life, together enter into the joy of our Lord. May Thy grace and blessing answer, for the sake of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O ETERNAL and most glorious Lord God, we bless Thee that Thou hast given us by the eye of faith to see Thee as our Father on Thy mercy-seat, and to believe that as we thus draw nigh to thee, Thou wilt draw nigh to us. Help us to crave more and more of Thy presence until Thy fullness fill us wholly. We would not have one portion of our hearts unoccupied by Thee. In Thee we live, and move, and have our being. Do Thou be pleased to live and move within us, breathing in our prayers, inhabiting our praises, speaking in our words, moving in our every movement.

It is our especial prayer this morning that Thou wilt be pleased to come, and by Thy Spirit to cause our faith to grow exceedingly. Holy Father, mightily increase this grace within us. It is of Thy bounteous goodness that we believe, but still how weak and wavering is our faith,

how dim is its light, how tottering is its step, how tremulously it stands, how slow is its growth, how frequent are its backslidings! When for the time it should be mighty to scale the heaven of heavens, it often lies grovelling in the dust. How much of distrust mingles with its strongest efforts! Pity our manifold infirmities. Help this vile unbelief. Thou hast been pleased of Thy free love to kindle within us this heaven-sent spark. How easy for Thee to fan it into glowing flame! O Lord, hearken and do for thy mercy's sake. While we mourn over our many maladies, we see that increase of faith would be the grand remedy. Our hearts are often the cage of every unclean bird, the fount of every loathsome desire, the noxious trees of deathful fruit, the open wayside of earthly lusts and passions. It is because faith sleeps. Awaken it, good Lord. Bid it put forth more strength, until it brings all heaven into the soul, and all impurity is cast out.

We now go forth to intermingle with

the world. This foe is artful to entrap. It will approach in fascinating guise. It will extend many a gilded bait, and will present many a poisoned cup. Lord, increase our faith, and we shall scorn every painted bauble, and trample down every bewitching snare. We shall then be more than conquerors, for this is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith.

Many duties are before us. Our callings demand firmness, energy, and zeal. We desire to work in Thy vineyard this day, not slothful in any business, but as Thy servants, devoted to Thy cause, valiant in Thy name. We know that love is the working grace, and that our love will be commensurate with our faith. Let but our faith stride forth in giant-power, and love will respond and put energy into every act, and then at the close of this day, Thy Spirit will bear witness with our spirit: well done, good and faithful servant. Oh! then receive our cry, increase our faith.

Often do we mourn the absence of our beloved Lord. His smile makes earth a paradise. His voice is the sweetest music to our ears. Without Him life is a dreary blank. Apart from Him we stumble and fall. With Him we are strong to do all things. Wherefore is He ever absent? He stands at the door, but it is barred by unbelief. If faith gives entrance, Jesus enters in, and takes up His abode. It is a true word, Christ dwells in the heart by faith. Longing for this indwelling, we cry, Good Lord, increase our faith.

Our joys are at their fullest tide, when we realise that we are members of Thy family. Thy household is the household of faith. Without it we are strangers and aliens. We know that it is by faith in Jesus Christ that we are Thy children. Increase then our faith that we may joy in our high relationship, and glory in our glorious inheritance.

Thou hast strewn many precious promises up and down the Bible-page. They are flowers of sweet fragrance when culled

by faith. They are fruit of refreshing flavour when gathered by this grace. But without it they are empty husks. Suffer not this treasure to be no treasure to us. May we be rich in its richness, imbibe its sweetness, feast on its preciousness, draw vigour from its manna, be strong in its strength, and happy in its joy. This cannot be without much faith. Good Lord, hear the cry of our anxious hearts, and increase our faith, through the merits and for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD GOD, our Father in heaven, preserved by Thy kind providence through another brief stage of our earthly pilgrimage, we assemble around Thy mercy-seat. We cannot bless Thee, as we would, for this inestimable privilege of united access to Thee. We thank Thee, that, vile and sin-soiled as we are, we may come into Thine immediate presence, and hold this converse with Thee, and commune with Thee concerning all our matters, all our sins, and fears and hopes and desires.

Grant us more and more by Thy Holy Spirit to prize the privilege of prayer. May we feel that we poor sinners on earth may speak directly to Thee, the great the glorious God, on Thy throne in the heaven of heavens. How wondrous the thought that our poor breathings may fly on the wings of faith, and have instant access to the ears of Thy grace! We bless Thee that prayer moves Thy right hand, by

which all things were made and are upheld.

It is of Thy tender compassion that we are commanded in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make our requests known unto Thee. May we yield humble obedience, and so may the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. We thank Thee, and we clasp the wondrous promise : we feel the high privilege to which it raises us : Ask and ye shall have : seek and ye shall find : knock and it shall be opened unto you. So grant now to us that ask. May we who seek find ; open the door to us that knock ; and in answer to our wrestling cry fill us with the spirit of grace and supplication. May we pray always and not faint. May prayer be the mould in which our minds are framed, the channel in which our thoughts shall flow, the path in which our feet shall tread, the watch upon the door of our lips. May prayer be with us when

we leave our morning chamber, when we move throughout the day, when we retire to our evening rest.

Give us undoubting faith that supplications never are in vain. May we know assuredly that if we obtain not our exact petitions, we shall have larger, richer answers: that it is Thy property to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. Unasked, Thou hast given the greatest of all gifts, the unspeakable gift of Thy dear Son. We hence feel confident that in answer to incessant cries, Thou wilt give us all things needful for life and godliness.

May the matter of our prayers be always wise and humble and submissive. When we seek nothing but the glory of Thy name, the advance of the Redeemer's kingdom, may we ask boldly and expect fully. When we bring temporal matters before Thy throne, may we in humble submission spread out our need, and from our inmost souls breathe out the cry, Not as we will, but as Thou wilt.

Hear too our united supplication for the pardon of all sins which Thine omniscient eye has seen in us this day. We are deeply conscious that evil cleaves to our holiest walk. We see and bewail our many transgressions and shortcomings. How many more are in the light of Thy countenance. How exceeding is their magnitude before Thee. Enter not into judgment with us. Behold us only in Thy dear Son. Regard us as sheltered from wrath in the covert of His cleansing wounds. Accept His sacrifice on the cross as our full atonement, and as the perfect payment of our every debt.

We would mention before Thee all our kindred, family, and friends. May we all be bound together in the bundle of life, which is in Christ Jesus. Sanctify us all, body, soul, and spirit. May we be one now in the bonds of the everlasting gospel, one for ever in the eternal mansions of glory.

We thank Thee for all who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear,

beseeeching Thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that, this life ended, we may joy with them in Thine eternal kingdom. We present these prayers, trusting in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, most gracious Saviour, with grateful joy we come to Thee. We know Thy boundless love. We believe that Thou dost delight over us to bless us and to do us good. We look to Thy cross, and we see how Thou hast loved us. Thou hast given Thyself that we should never die. Surely with Thyself Thou wilt add all needful blessings. Thou hast left us a precious legacy of promise; surely thou wilt open heaven wide to pour down fulfilment.

We remember the wondrous word, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth." We spread before Thee this most blessed pledge. We present our empty hearts before Thee, and we meekly beseech Thee to fill them with Thy Holy Spirit.

We earnestly desire to be temples en-

tirely occupied by His presence. We are blind ; send Him to give us light. Darkness is around us and within us ; may He say, Let there be light, and there shall be light. We believe that it is life eternal to know the Father, and Thee whom the Father hath sent ; may He brightly illumine our minds to understand with exceeding joy the Father's eternal love, the sure provisions of the covenant of grace, and all the glories of Thy finished work. May He give us faith to see our names engraven on Thy heart—our souls and bodies assuredly redeemed by Thy blood—our lives of sinfulness gloriously covered by Thy life of pure obedience. Replenish us with His revealing grace, that we may realise our indissoluble oneness with Thee—that Thou hast espoused us to Thyself for ever in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies, and in faithfulness—that we are one with Thee as branches with the stem, *as building with the foundation, and*

that nothing can part us from Thine unchanging love.

In the midst of our sorrows may His comforts cheer us. In all our trials may His strength sustain us. When we are disposed to faint and be weary, may the dew of His blessing revive us. May His presence render us very fruitful trees of holiness. By His might establish within us the reign of righteousness and peace and joy. Send Him as the Searcher of hearts to show us more of our utter corruption, that in deep self-abhorrence, realising our worse than helplessness, we may flee to Thee, cling more closely to Thee, and receive Thee, as the beginning and the end, the first and the last of our salvation.

We desire to pray always, without doubting and without ceasing. So enrich us with the constant Spirit of supplication, that our lives may be continuous prayer. We long to encircle Thee with the thanksgivings which are infinitely Thy due. By Thy Spirit kindle within

us the undying flame of adoration, so that our heaven of praise may commence on earth, and that the endless hallelujahs may be no new song to us. So dispose our hearts, that when He shall seek us with all these blessings on His wings, we may never vex Him by our indifference and waywardness, never grieve Him by our cold welcome, never resist Him by our hard rebellion; but may we lift up the gates of our souls that this heavenly visitant may come in and occupy the throne and rule for ever.

Especially may Thy Spirit aid us when we search the Scriptures. The depths are very deep; the heights are exceeding high. We have no lines to fathom, and no wings to soar; but by His gracious help may we be enabled to explore all truth, to love it with all our hearts, to embrace it with all our powers, and to engraft it on our lives. Thus may we daily become more spiritually-minded, which is life and peace.

These blessings, thus earnestly sought

by us, vouchsafe to all whom duty and affection prompt us to remember in our prayers. Pour Thy Spirit on our seed, Thy blessing on our offspring. Bring home to Thy fold all wanderers and outcasts. Hasten the time when Thou shalt be adored as the one Shepherd of one flock. Answer our humble petitions for Thy great name's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

EVER blessed Lord God, with joy and thankfulness we again with united hearts and voices gather round Thee in the name of Jesus.

We humbly pray that all the occurrences of this departing day may work together for our good. A little stage of life is passed. Its end should find us riper in grace and more meet to see Thy face. But we have left undone many duties: may the condemning thought strip us more and more of all self-righteousness, and deepen in us the resolve, that, if other days be ours, they shall, Thy Spirit helping, be more devoted to Thy service.

Past opportunities can never be recalled. They once were ours to use, and their misuse adds to our overwhelming guilt. While we plead Thy dear Son's satisfaction as our hope of pardon, may *we* be quickened to more sedulity and

watchful care. Help us to redeem the time, knowing that to us it is very short—a little speck—a span—a vanishing shadow—a fading flower. And seeing that we have no merit of our own, may we prize more intensely the inestimable merits of Christ Jesus our Lord, whom we rejoicingly receive as made of Thee unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Many temptations have beset our path. Grant that in each we may see the craft, the subtlety, the bitter enmity, the wily power of our deadly adversaries. May the experience of this day lead us to stand with more wary eye on the watch-tower of faith, and to cling with more determined grasp to the side of our protecting Lord. Whereinsoever we have fallen, may we smite upon our breasts and hide our offences beneath the Redeemer's sheltering righteousness. Whereinsoever we have escaped, may we ascribe deliverance wholly to sustaining grace, and may our grateful songs exalt

the Lord our strength. If we have been permitted to do anything to the glory of Thy great name, whether in word or work, do Thou be pleased to add Thine effectual blessing, and multiply a thousandfold the seed so scantily sown.

We trust that prayers have ascended this day from our secret closets, and many aspirations from our hearts, when busied in appointed work. Do Thou be pleased to receive them from our great Intercessor's hands, and may answers descend according to His prevailing worth. Bless also to our souls every grain of truth which we have gleaned in the rich fields of Thy holy Word. May they all take deep root. May Satan tear none away. May heavenly dew refresh them. May heavenly rays ripen them. May they bear abundant fruit to our great joy and to Thine exceeding praise.

And now our wearied frames solicit sleep. Give us the restoring rest needful for the next day's toil. If dreams be ours, *may no tinge* of evil be intermixed. But

may Thy Spirit, whether we sleep or watch, make us the blessed temple of His sanctifying presence.

Throughout wide earth many this night are lying down in misery and pain. Their consciences accuse of sin; their minds are harassed by tormenting and foreboding thoughts; personal and relative anxieties hold their eyes waking. Permit us to commend their wretchedness to Thee their great Creator. Thou hast a balm for every wound, a solace for all anguish, a remedy for every pain, a deliverance from every embarrassed lot, a peace for all disquietude. Hear our prayer for these, and vouchsafe help. Thou canst change the night of darkness into joyful light. Cause, we pray Thee, the desolate to know Thee and be glad. Holy Spirit, reveal Jesus to them. To receive Him is unmixed blessedness. We thus implore for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth ! who hast set Thy glory above the heavens. From thy high throne behold with gracious eye Thy humble servants. We would not cross the threshold of this day without committing ourselves, our souls and bodies, and all our matters, and all our friends, to Thy guardian care. We know that we are not our own ; we desire to be wholly Thine. Watch over us, keep us, guide us, direct us, sanctify us, bless us. Incline our hearts to delight in Thy holy ways. As the potter frameth the clay, so do Thou mould us wholly into the image of the blessed Jesus. Make us vessels of honour fitted for Thy service. May our lips, as well-tuned harps, sound the sweet melody of Thy heavenly praise. May all around take knowledge of us that we are much with Jesus—that we *are dead to earthly vanities—crucified*

with Christ, yet living by His Spirit—trampling the world beneath our spurning feet—having no conformity to lying vanities, but entirely transformed by the renewing of our minds—clad in the whole armour of God—shining as lights in the world—having holiness to the Lord conspicuous on our brow.

We know not with what matters we may this day be intermixed. Let no evil soil our hands. Help us as we pass along the miry paths of life to keep our garments pure from all spot and stain. While transacting needful concerns, may our affections be high in heaven with Thee. As the flame tends upward, so may the fire of heavenly love in our souls, kindled and fanned by Thy Holy Spirit, be ever ascending in brighter and purer blaze. Keep our gaze immovably fixed, not on the things which are seen, but on the things which are not seen ; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. Open our eyes to see empti-

ness, fragility, mockery, inscribed on earth and all earth's vanities. They cannot satisfy—as a shadow they depart and flee away—while we grasp them, they are gone. May we view all things in the mirror of eternity. Impress on us the solemn truth, that yet a little while the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. May we move up and down, with our eyes watching for the sign of the Son of man in the heavens. May our ears be ever listening for the last trumpet's clang, and may we be looking for and hasting unto the new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. May one aspiration ever swell within our hearts, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

We know not who of our fellow-men shall cross our path this day, and hold communion with us. Give us the persuasion that Thou wilt order all our in-

tercourse with them according to Thine all-ruling wisdom. May mutual good be gained and done by us. May we look on every one as sent of Thee with, or for, a blessing. Forbid it, O gracious Lord, that we should not be profited and profitable. At the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, may we bless Thee for grace brought to us by Thy servants this day. And may others bless Thee for grace communicated through us. Guide us by Thy counsel that we may speak each word as our last word, and step each step as our last step. May we go in and out holding our lives in open hand, ready to be surrendered at Thy call. If this day should be our last, may it be our best. May earth's farewell be abundant entrance to Thine everlasting kingdom. Hearken and do, most blessed God, for Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

HOLY FATHER, who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin. If Thy mercy had any bounds, where could we find refuge from just wrath? But Thy love in Christ Jesus is without measure and without end, therefore we poor sinners now live before Thee to bow in evening worship at Thy throne.

We present ourselves in deep humility. Sins of omission, sins of commission, sins against Thee our Heavenly Father, against Thy beloved Son our adorable Redeemer, against the strivings of Thy Holy Spirit, against the dictates of a warning conscience, against the precepts of Thy blessed Word, against our neighbours and ourselves, at home and abroad, testify that we have been this day unprofitable servants and vile transgressors.

Enter not into judgment with us. We plead no righteousness of our own. We cloak no iniquity. We spread out the hours of this day before Thee as dark with evil, and our earnest prayer is for pardon, through the meritorious death of Him who died for us, and now liveth at Thy right hand, to make intercession for our guilty souls and bodies.

At the close of each day we are constrained to renew our penitence. How often have we vowed that our love should burn more brightly, our service should be more sincere, our lives more devoted. We leave our chambers with pious resolve to be wholly Thine, but we soon stumble and backslide, and return to confess our weakness, misery, and sin. For ever blessed be Thy holy name that the finished work of Jesus needs no addition from our doings! If the slightest merit were needed at our hands, our agonised cry must be, Lost, ruined, and undone. Heaven never could be ours. We must go hence to everlasting destruction from Thy pre-

sence, and to lie down among the wailings of the outcasts. But we adore Thee for Christ our all, and this night we plead His full, perfect, sufficient, sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction.

But we feel, that though our works can never justify, yet still their abundance should show forth Thy praise, and exhibit evidence that Thy Spirit has called us to Thy faith and fear, and to pure and loving and unceasing service. Enable us, we beseech Thee, if future days should be ours, to amend our lives according to Thy holy Word. Increase in us hatred and abhorrence of all evil. Strengthen us to flee the sins which we confess. Make us more resolute, more watchful, more prayerful. Open our eyes to the snares ever before our feet, and help us to escape them, through the knowledge of Him who hath called us to glory and virtue.

Of Thy free grace grant, we beseech Thee, that no evil fruits may spring up from the evil seeds which our unwary *hands have strewn*. Let no fellow-crea-

ture be hardened in vanity and folly by our want of circumspection. If we have been ashamed this day of Christ and His Word, pardon our unfaithfulness, and give us opportunity to repair the neglect. If any words from our lips have shown unkindness, malice, envy, or want of love, grant that they may be no stumbling-block in the way of others. May no unadvised speech or hasty temper in us bring dishonour to Thy sacred name. Oh that our upright example may ever rebuke vice and allure to godliness, and give evidence that lovely are the ways of Christ.

Bless with thine enriching grace every effort made by us to make known Thy saving truth. Hear and answer all our prayers for ourselves and others.

Into Thine hands we now commit ourselves, our souls, our bodies, for Thou hast redeemed us O Lord, Thou God of truth. Keep all evil accident far away. May refreshing slumber, if it be Thy gracious will, soothe and restore our

powers. Give ministering spirits charge to watch around. We earnestly implore that our every thought may be holiness to Thee. For Thy name's sake send us not empty away. We crave acceptance in the merits of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

FATHER of all mercies, be Thou all mercy unto us. The light returns, but without Thy light within no profit can outward light afford. Give us the saving light of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may see Thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of our salvation, the delight of our souls, joying over us with joy, resting in Thy love.

The gift of this day will bring us, we trust, nearer to heaven. May it raise us higher in heaven. May our eternity be happier, our hallelujahs louder, because of the grace now given and rightly used. Especially we commend our hearts to Thy watchful care. We know their treachery. We cannot keep them. Guard their every portal, lest the wily enemy should come in. Give us quick discernment of his deadly arts. If he approaches us as an angel of light, may we detect the bold disguise, and bid him begone.

Help us to realise that opportunities quickly fly, and never more return. May all our words and works allure others to the highest walks of faith and love. May the loiterers be quickened by our example to increase of diligence. May worldlings be won to the pure delight of spiritual acquaintedness with Thee. May our zeal for Jesus and His truth warn the timid and irresolute of the fearful doom of those who are ashamed of Him. Cause us to be such mirrors of Thy grace that all may see in us how good and joyful a thing it is to live in the service of our God.

May we rejoice to remember that Thou, O God, seest us. Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and so uncloak the empty vanity of all earthly things, that no conformity may bespatter us with mire. Utterly transform us by the renewing of our minds. May our lips be as well tuned cymbals, sweetly sounding Thy praise. May a halo of heavenly-mindedness sparkle around us. We are in-

vited to precious delights. The banqueting-house of Thy Word is widely open. The voice of the heavenly spouse calls us: Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. Eat ye that which is good, and let your souls delight themselves in fatness. Quicken us to arise and come apart, and regale ourselves amid the rich refreshment of gospel-promises. May we sit down under our Lord's shadow with great delight, and may we find His fruit sweet to our taste.

Help us to have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way, remembering the misery of past days, when darkness blinded our eyes. Enable us tenderly to warn, and with yearning hearts to draw them from destruction's crowded way.

We thank Thee for the spirit-stirring Word; he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. Time is very short. Soon the last sand will fall through. May we gather

up the fragments which remain, that nothing more may be lost. Be with those who through sickness, age, infirmity, or other disability cannot labour in Thy vineyard. Remind us that our activities may soon similarly fade. Give them the calm joy of holy meditation, and by their prayers may they call down blessings on the warfaring camp and the wayfaring pilgrims. Thus may every member of the Church in his vocation and ministry joyfully and truly serve Thee.

Regard with Thine especial favour those connected with us by the ties of kindred and Christian love. Bless all whose friendship cheers us, and whose kindness is a sunbeam to our path. Supply all their need according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus. If there be any who have evil will towards us, take it out of their hearts, and turn their enmity to love. Suffer us never to be overcome of evil, but to overcome all evil with good. If any rail may we bless,

knowing that we are thereunto called,
that we should inherit a blessing.

O King, eternal, immortal, invisible,
the only wise God, be glorified in us and
by us this day and for ever, through
Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O ETERNAL God, who only hast immortality, ever living in glory, unchanged, unchangeable, bend down Thine ear to hear. Hearken and bless us. Grant that the morning light and the evening shade may alike write lessons of wisdom on our hearts. May the close of another day teach us the rapid flight of time. Truly our life is but a vapour. How soon will our sojourn on earth be gone. As the water spilt cannot be gathered up, so lost opportunities no more return.

Pardon us that we have so poorly used the hours just fled. Pardon us that we have so failed to do Thy work and to advance Thy glory. We humble ourselves as most unprofitable servants. Our best doing is but a filthy rag. Our worst, how hateful it must be to Thee, in whose sight the very heavens are not clean. In shame we now hide ourselves in our great Redeemer's wounds. Clinging to His cross

we supplicate forgiveness of every committed sin and of every omitted duty.

All glory to Thy holy name, that Jesus is revealed to us as the Lord our Righteousness. Accept His obedience for our disobedience to the praise of the glory of Thy grace. Grant that the beds which we now approach may remind us that graves will soon open for us. As our eyes are now about to close in sleep, so they will soon close on this earthly scene. May our frequent lying down make us familiar with the image of death. May we always be ready, waiting for admittance to Thine immediate presence.

Grant that the love of things heavenly may so engross our minds, that attachment to things earthly may utterly become extinct. Our treasure is not here. Where our treasure is, surely our affections should be placed. Enable us to reflect that we received life on condition of early surrender. May we then hold it loosely in our hand, prepared for Thy recall. We willingly endure pain and suf-

fering to recruit for a moment our transitory health, shall we shrink from the pains of death, which introduce us to the freshness of eternal youth?

Send down Thy Holy Spirit to reveal to us all the fulness of the truth, that the blessed Jesus has abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light. Gracious Saviour, proclaim to the ears of our faith, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. We desire to retire this night in full assurance that yet a little while, and He that shall come will come and will not tarry; and that when Christ who is our life shall appear, then we also shall appear with Him in glory.

All glory be to Thee for these precious hopes. All honour be to Thee for the gospel of the glory of Thy grace. All praise be to Thee for Thine unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. All thanks for the love of the Spirit, who has translated us

from darkness into this marvellous light. For truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

O Thou who hast showered so many blessings upon earth this day, withhold not Thy mercies in the night season. Darkness is no darkness to Thee, but day and night are both alike. Thy gracious hand never wearies. Thy power needs no repose. Refresh, we pray Thee, the multitudes who now lie down wearied and worn out. Keep feverish unrest from them whom sleepless pillows now await. Be Thou their song when all around is mute. Strengthen those who are called to watch by the beds of the sick and suffering and dying. Make them the happy ministers of ease and peace.

Throughout this night many prayers will be poured forth. Hear them, answer them, send in response the comforts of Thy Spirit. Some are constrained to travel: be Thou by their side. Some are tossed on the billows of the sea; if the stormy wind shall arise, may their souls

find sweet calm in Thee. Thus we commend to Thee all the wants of all the family of man. We bless Thee that we may thus plead for them. Show Thyself, we pray Thee, the God of all grace and love and power for the glory of Thy name in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ANOTHER morning, O our God, now dawns. It is the last morning of this week, and it may be the last morning of our earthly course. In the review of all the blessings of the past days, we thank Thee; and we mourn from our inmost souls that our praises are such feeble gracelessness. Pity us for Christ's sake. In Him Thy mercy exceeds all bounds, and survives all time. In Him be ever a God of mercy unto us.

In the uncertainty of what is ordered for us, we place ourselves entirely in Thy fatherly arms. We cry Abba, Father, and we confidently implore the children's blessing. If we live throughout this day, may our lives be the high happiness of serving Thee. Work in us to will, work in us to do, according to Thy good pleasure.

We are blind, be Thou our light. We are ignorant, be Thou our wisdom. We

are steeped in self-will, do thou pluck all self out of us. Make us followers of Thy dear Son who pleased not Himself. May it be our meat and drink to do Thy will. Thus may we finish our course with gladness. Open our ears very quickly to hear Thy Spirit's voice. Without one halting pause may we run delightedly after His beckoning hand. Melt our consciences, that no hardness may remain. Make them tenderly alive to evil's slightest touch. If the enemy approach, quicken our steps to flee into the wounds of Jesus as our sure refuge. Sheltered in the ark of safety, may we cease to tremble at all alarms. May the good Shepherd lead us this day into the green pastures of His refreshing Word, and cause us to lie down beside the rivers of His comforts. Fill us with the peace of God which passeth all understanding, that no disquieting gales from the world may ruffle the calm surface of our souls. In all our needful intercourse with *men*, enable us to act as servants faithful

to their King in heaven, and as entrusted with a blessing for others. May many be the better, none the worse, that our lips are not yet silent in the grave. Help us never to be ashamed of the gospel of Thy grace. May men read in us that it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

Blessed Lord God, make this a blessed day to the children of men. Cause the devil to tremble, because Thy power is gone forth mightily to save. Unite to Thy Church many that shall be saved. Call forth sorrow unto repentance never to be repented of. Give new life which never shall be extinct. Put happy songs into many mouths, which shall sound throughout eternity.

For the good of our own souls, and for the good of Thy whole Church, we pray especially for those whom Thou hast called to be ministers of Thy truth. Give them calm hours to equip for work. Call them to undisturbed communion with Thee. Shut out the

world and all its matters from their holy meditations. Help them to draw water from the deep wells of salvation, wherewith to refresh the flocks. May they taste themselves, and inwardly digest the truths which Thou shalt teach them to proclaim. May they stand in their pulpits as true men of God, as very ambassadors for Christ. May their every sentence be deeply imbued with the Spirit of the Lord, and thoroughly baptized in His blood. May they plead as dying men with dying men, using each opportunity as the last. Let the world see that Thou wilt work, and none shall let. Roll away the reproach from pulpits that insipidity and ignorance are sometimes found, where zeal should burn and knowledge should abound. As the message of Christ exceeds all other themes, so may it be uttered in eloquence thrilling from enlightened hearts. Let not the enticing words of man's wisdom be sought, but let the Spirit's power give *dignity* and success.

Hear our prayers too for those who shall this day make holy preparation to take the teaching place in Sunday schools. Enable them to feel their high position rightly, and duly to estimate each recurring opportunity. Help them to instruct with wrestling prayer, knowing that Thou only canst command the blessing :—with glowing love for souls, feeling that one soul saved outweighs in worth all worlds :—with tender patience, remembering Thy wondrous long-suffering towards them :—with lively faith, believing that no word of truth can ever sound in vain. Bless them. Bless their numerous classes. Cause our schools to shine as centres of gospel-light, and let the Word of the Lord have free course and be glorified through many regenerate parishes. We ask in full faith of abundant answers in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we meekly knock at mercy's gate. Father, unto Thee we cry. Blessed Jesu, Thy name we plead. Holy Spirit, by Thy help we venture near.

How solemn is all prayer! How more than solemn is a family's last prayer on the last evening of a concluded week. Prayer drew back the curtains of its first day. May prayer now close the door.

What penitence, confusion, shame befit us! This week accumulates our mass of guilt. It proves us offenders at every moment and in every act. If our past hours be weighed in the scales of justice, we must lie low, convicted and undone. The voice of Thy righteous law proclaims our manifold transgressions. Condemning conscience mournfully assents. But, gracious Saviour, in Thee we have redemption through Thy blood, even the forgiveness *of our sins*. O Lamb of God, that takest

away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ hear us. Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.

Wherefore was Thy cross erected but to be our refuge! Wherefore did Thy blood stream but to wash us clean! Wherefore didst Thou become our surety, but that Thy death might be ours! Wherefore is Thy name Jesus, but because it is Thy property to save! We call upon Thee, that all the purposes of Thy grace may be in us abundantly fulfilled. We come unto Thee. Thou hast said, Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out. Receive us then to Thine uttermost salvation.

If we see to-morrow's light, we shall commence a new week. May it be in newness of heart. We shall see too a Sabbath-day, so graciously ordained that we might gather increased blessings. Hear our humble desire, that it may be a Sabbath-day indeed to us.

Repair now with refreshing sleep our weary powers. Send sweet repose to restore what toil and cares have weakened. Suffer not Satan to molest our rest, or to disquiet with unwelcome thoughts. Pour vigour into our minds, that to-morrow in public and in private we may wrestle with Thee, as men striving for life, bold to grasp Thee until our cups overflow. Grant that we may awake from slumbers fresh for every holy exercise, fervent in spirit, alert for Thy worship. May no languor oppress. May no intrusive recollections carry us back to a renounced world.

We beseech Thee also to watch around the couches of Thy faithful ministers. Strengthen their energy of body. Give them needful activity of mind. Enable them to go forth a mighty army against the powers of darkness. Animate them with strong arm to unfurl the banner of the Cross. Help them with untiring zeal to deal closely with the consciences of *men*. With unwearied ardour may they

sound aloud the great Redeemer's dying love. Send forth Thy Holy Spirit in the gospel's conquering car. Let Pentecostal blessings fall, and the name of Jesus triumph gloriously.

Thus this week ends. The close reminds us that to each of us the race of life is well-nigh run. This may be our last united prayer. Hear us then, when in the name of Christ we supplicate the everlasting pardon of all the sins of each and all of us now prostrate before Thy throne. May full salvation be our common portion. May the righteousness of God be our robe through all the ages of eternity. May heaven be our one home for ever. May our united song increase the praises which shall have no end.

Counteract all the evil which our commissions and omissions have tended to produce. Overrule all matters in which we have had concern wholly to Thy glory. Grant that earth may not be worse because our feet have trod it. May we now look round as if our eyes should see this

world no more. Suffer us not to bear away from this Thy mercy-seat any unforgiving temper or unholy passion. Hallow us throughout as pure temples of the Holy Ghost.

Give us the blessings which we crave. Give us much more, even all that the merits of Thy Son have purchased, and all that the everlasting covenant of grace provides. Pour all heaven into our longing hearts. We would forget none who claim our prayers. Do for them even as for us. Guide them by Thy counsel. Receive them to Thy glory. Accept our tribute of adoration offered in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou art our God: early will we seek Thee. It is our joy and our delight, our highest privilege and our glorious honour, to approach in the name of Jesus Thy throne of grace. We come with filial confidence, and cry unto Thee, Abba, Father. Our hearts are narrow to comprehend the riches of Thine adopting love. Our lips fail when we strive to utter just praise. But hear us when we wrestle with Thee for larger supplies of Thy Holy Spirit to enable us to realise our high estate.

We were dead in trespasses and sins. But now our eyes are open to behold in part Thy glory, and lips no longer dumb hold sacred converse with Thee.

We were strangers and outcasts—slaves in the prison-house of Satan—rebels against Thy righteous rule—ignorant of Thy gospel-love. But Thou hast brought us nigh by the blood of Thy dear Son. Thou hast softened the heart of enmity. Thou hast called us to be Thy children by the faith of Jesus. Thou hast admitted us into Thine own family, and made us heirs of Thy kingdom, and joint-heirs with Christ. Oh that we might love Thee as Thou lovest us! Oh that we might walk worthy of Thee our God, and of Thy heavenly calling! Oh that we might reflect the image of the first-born of Thy house.

Especially may we feel that we are Thine own sons through all the hours of this sacred Sabbath. The gates of Thine earthly sanctuary open to us. We are called to unite with Thy favoured children in public avowal that we are Thine. We are invited to lift up the voice of common prayer and praise with the *multitude* who keep holy day. We hear Thy

Spirit's animating call, "Oh come let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation: let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms." Help us as obedient children to draw near. May we see Thy beauty and Thy glory with the clear eye of faith. May we feel Thy Spirit's mighty power in our hearts. May a live coal from the heavenly sanctuary touch our lips. May we find that we are the called of the Lord, free and strong to wrestle with Thee as the patriarch of old. May we rise far above earth, and have large foretaste of our heavenly home.

We remember with shame, that often our knees have bowed when our spirits have been unhumbled. Our confessions of misery as sinners have often been an empty sound. In deep sense of our guilt we fly for refuge into the wounded side of Jesus. Under the shelter of His cross we supplicate pardon

for the past, and help in the worship of this day.

Except Thy Spirit shall mightily move in us, no inward fire will kindle. O blessed Jesu, remember Thy gracious word. Do as Thou hast said. Be present where Thy people meet, and cause Thy nearness to be felt. Especially clothe Thine own Word with divine power. May it shine as a light from heaven, revealing Thee. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O most mighty, with Thy glory and Thy majesty. And in Thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

When Satan shall draw near to infuse coldness and slumber, and careless wanderings into our minds, or to carry away the good seed, do Thou rebuke him, and drive him far away. Be Thou a wall of fire round about Thy congregations, and the glory in their midst.

Heavenly Father, bless all who shall teach this day, whether in the pulpit, in *the school*, in visits to the sick, or

beside the dying bed. May they receive from Thee what they shall dispense to others. May their own souls richly feed on the good provisions which from Thy storehouse they bring forth. May it be clearly evident that their feet firmly walk in the narrow way to which they invite. May they brightly shine in that light which they labour to diffuse.

Thus may there be showers of Sabbath-blessings on this weary earth. Water with fructifying dew all the good truth which shall be scattered. May the fruits of salvation be abundant. May the everlasting songs be augmented. Bind in closer bonds of love pastors to their flocks, and flocks to their pastors, and all to Thee. Kindle mutual prayer for common weal. May they joy in each other's joy, strengthen in each other's strength, and be comforted in each other's comfort. Hear our prayer. Hasten Thy kingdom. Bless us for the sake of Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

LORD of the Sabbath, as a family we commenced this day on bended knees ; as a family, on bended knees we close it. Prayer opened the Sabbath-portals, let prayer now bar them. In humble faith we asked Thy presence and Thy grace. For Thy presence and Thy grace we now give thanks. We began, looking to the Saviour ; looking to the Saviour we conclude.

We felt our need with morning light, we feel it not less at evening's shade. We early smote upon our breasts as miserable sinners ; as miserable sinners we smite again. Through all our lives no day has passed which has not proved us guilty in Thy sight. The record of every moment is a record of transgression. But this day the iniquity of holy things adds to our condemnation. Sanctuary-hours accuse us. Prayers have been uttered, while hearts have been

prayerless. Praise has been often praiseless sound. Our best services are but as filthy rags. We utterly renounce them. They are unworthy of Thee, our God. We bewail them as bearing witness to the evil which dwells within us. When the spirit is willing the flesh is weak. We do not worship as we ought. We do not serve thee as we would. Be merciful, be merciful unto us, whose only hope is in Thine unfailing mercy.

Blessed Jesu, we hide ourselves in the sure covert of Thine appeasing wounds. Our sins rise higher than the heavens, but Thy merits in our behalf surpass the very heaven of heavens. Our unrighteousness would weigh us down to hell, but Thy glorious righteousness exalts us to be partners of Thy throne. All things in us call for our rejection; all things in Thee demand our acceptance. We appeal, then, from the throne of perfect justice to Thy throne of boundless grace. Grant us to hear Thy voice assuring us, that by Thy stripes we are

healed ; that Thou hast been bruised for our iniquities ; that Thou hast been made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Thee ; and that all our sins, even the grievous sins of Sabbath-deficiencies, and sanctuary-heartlessness, are all forgiven, and buried in the ocean of Thy concealing blood. Thus may we retire this night as guilty, yet pardoned—as lost in ourselves, yet fully saved in Thee.

We pray especially for all our fellow-worshippers. Pardon their shortcomings, even as we beseech Thee to pardon ours. Give them contrite hearts, even as we seek broken-heartedness for ourselves. Enable them to close this day clinging to the cross, even as we now seek safety and repose beneath its shelter. Hear our cry, too, for all the congregations throughout earth's breadth. Accept and answer the prayers which Thy Holy Spirit has breathed within them. Thou searchest the hearts and knowest what is the mind of the Spirit. Let, then, floods

of descending grace enrich a weary world.
Thy treasury will not be lessened. Thy
people will be enlarged and cheered.
Great will be their gain without decrease
in Thee.

We pray for blessings upon blessings
on all the ministers of Thy sacred truth,
who know nothing among their people
but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
Let not Thy word return unto Thee
void. Thou hast kindled the light
of life, and set it in the world's gloom.
Cause it, with increasing brightness, to
outshine all mists of ignorance and su-
perstition. Satan sees it, and trembles.
He hates it, and would fain extinguish.
Defeat his cruel wiles. Show that gos-
pel-rays are far mightier than all powers
of darkness.

In the riches of Thy love Thou
hast opened the springs of heavenly
knowledge in this wilderness. Keep
the stream pure from the corruption
of man's traditions and vain conceits.
May every drop sparkle like crystal.

May it flow clear and unsullied as mountain-snow. May it refresh as the morning-dew. The prince of this world strives to poison it with mixtures of all error. We look to Thee to keep the fountain of Thy Word healthful and unadulterated.

Guard with Thy preserving care the vine which Thy right hand has planted. Suffer not the wild boar of the forest to lay it waste, nor the little foxes to spoil the tender grapes. Add to Thy Church daily such as shall be saved. These prayers for ourselves, Thy ministers, Thy people, we humbly offer in the faith and name of Jesus Christ, and trusting only in His saving merits. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

HOLY FATHER, Almighty God, behold us as a little company on our knees before Thee. Regard us in tender love for Jesus' sake. Bend down Thine ears and vouchsafe Thy smile. Another working week begins. We commence it, adoring Thee for the refreshment to mind and body of yesterday's rest. All praise be to Thy gracious care for replenishing our souls from the storehouse of Thy Word.

May we now go forth to the duties of our calling strong in the might of Thy truth, nourished by the sincere milk of Thy gospel. Let Thy Word be held fast by us, and may we feast on it, and may it be the very joy and rejoicing of our hearts. Concerning the works of men, by the words of Thy lips keep us from the paths of the destroyer. Wherever our feet be set, may our thoughts be high with Thee on the mount of meditation. Enable each one of us in spirit to testify,

Oh ! how I love Thy law, it is my meditation all the day long. Teach us the happy art of attending to things temporal with minds intent on things eternal. In all our needful employ, help us to set Thee, our God, before us, and to walk on earth as seeing Him who is invisible. Grant that all occurrences this day may draw us nearer to our heavenly Father, and bring down more of heaven into our hearts.

We are strangers and pilgrims here. Give us the stranger's indifference. Let our hands hold the pilgrim's staff. Let our march be Zionward—watching for our dear Lord's return—listening for the archangel's shout, and the last trumpet's clang—prepared to lift up our heads with joy, knowing that His coming will be the day of our consummated redemption.

O our God, we desire to give our hearts unto Thee, now, and for this week, without one shadow of reserve. We beseech Thee take full possession of *them*. Expel mightily every opposing

foe. Crush every rebel lust. Mortify each traitorous passion. Annihilate each earth-born desire. Our hearts are Thine, for Thou hast created them. They are Thine, for Thou hast redeemed them by the most precious blood of Thine only begotten Son. They are Thine, because in free love Thou hast renewed them by thy Holy Spirit. They are Thine, because Thou hast conquered them by Thy grace. . They are Thine, because we willingly surrender them to Thee. Claim them, we beseech Thee, as Thine own heritage. Occupy them wholly by Thy presence. Exclude every intruding rival. Reign supreme within them.

We would love Thee now, and evermore, with all our hearts, and all our souls, and all our might, and all our strength. Thou art worthy of infinitude of adoration, far beyond what our dull hearts can yield. Is love among men awakened by genius, wisdom, worth, and seeming perfection? Thou art the very perfection of all perfections.

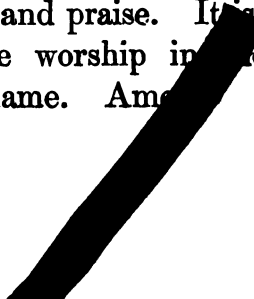
All intellect is derived from Thee. Our scanty rivulets flow from Thine unfathomable fountain. Compared with Thee the sun is darkness, all beauty is deformity, all knowledge is folly, the best goodness is most faulty. Thou, the great Creator, who inhabitest eternity, art high above all creatures. So invigorate our love, that it may worthily rise to Thee and tightly entwine itself around Thee.

Bless all with whom we shall have interchange of thought. May Christ in them teach us. May Christ in us give grace to them. Thus may we be fellow-helpers to each other's faith. We know not the effect of any utterance. We humbly pray Thee, that Thy Holy Spirit may suggest each word, and sanctify it to the use of edifying. Enable us, as the salt of the earth, to purify and check corruption. Help us, as flowers in the garden of the Lord, to diffuse holy fragrance.

If in our daily matters we shall have *contact* with the ungodly, worldly, or pro-

fane, may we receive no hurtful taint, but may we rather allure them to the more excellent way. If provocations should assail, may we keep our mouths, as it were, with a bridle, and overcome evil with good. We know the deceitfulness and desperate wickedness of man's heart. We fear, therefore, lest any evil should lurk undetected within. We beseech Thee search us thoroughly by Thy Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Bless with especial favour all who pray for us. Answer their prayers, and recompense them a thousandfold into their bosoms. Bless those who ask our prayers. Enrich them according as their need shall be. Accept this morning's sacrifice of prayer and praise. It is our bounden duty. We worship in the great Redeemer's name. Amen



MONDAY EVENING.

HEAVENLY FATHER, by Thy Holy Spirit, help us now to pray. We feel our weakness, our ignorance, our deep corruptions. Without Thee no thought is good. Without Thee our words cannot ascend to heaven. But trusting in Thy dear Son, we come to bless and praise Thee, O Thou who art the author and giver of all good things, for Thy gracious care of us throughout the hours of this departing day. We are vile earth and miserable sinners, but Thou hast magnified Thy grace in crowning us with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

We thank Thee for the full stream of temporal blessings which has gladdened our dwelling. We thank Thee for the sweet air which has refreshed our frames, for the light of Thy glorious sun, for the food which has renewed our strength, for the raiment which clothes us, for the *dwelling* which shelters us. No extreme

heat smites us. No extreme cold benumbs us. Things animate, things inanimate, minister to our comfort. Suffer us not to be insensible to these mercies, because they are our daily portion. Enable us to read in each a Father's love. The withdrawal of the least of these common favours would fill us with misery and distress. If Thy providential care should relax, plague and pestilence and famine and all the countless tribes of woe might settle on our land.

Gathered together this evening, free from all external troubles, secure, at ease, in peace, we humbly desire to bring the tribute of thanksgiving. We present ourselves, our bodies, all we are, and all that is within us, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service. High as is Thine hand in bestowing mercies, so high is it in averting evil. In every spectacle of another's woe may we deeply recognise our immunity through distinguishing love. Let every sight of sorrow deepen

in us gratitude for unmerited exemption. When tidings reach us in our sheltered homes of catastrophes and accidents abroad, may our grateful hearts respond, He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall dwell under the shadow of the Almighty.

While we thus adore Thee for temporal protection, help us to raise our voices higher still in recording spiritual support. We thank Thee that in full warmth of filial faith we look up this evening and cry Abba, Father. If Thy Holy Spirit had withdrawn His cheering presence, darkness and doubts would have obscured our hopes. We might have been sinking in deep waters, where there is no standing. The enemy might have come in like a flood. The night of despondency might have blackened around us. But through grace we retain our confidence, which has great recompense of reward. This proceeds solely from Thy goodness. We render thanks.

We know by sad experience the power,

and craft, and malignity of our spiritual adversary. If this day he has not affrighted us as a roaring lion, it is solely because Thou hast restrained him. If he has not laid wait as an adder in our path, it is because of the prevention of Thine interposing arm. All the artillery of hell might have been directed against us. What wounds might we have received ! Crippled and downcast we might have gone mourning to our graves. But Thou hast been our shield, therefore we will sing with adoring lips, The Lord is our rock, and our fortress, and our deliverer ; our God, our strength, in whom we will trust ; our buckler, and the horn of our salvation, and our high tower.

To our praises we add humble prayers. Thy mercies are new at evening and at morning. Great is Thy faithfulness. May Thy guardian-care continue now when night's shadows fall. Help us while we helpless lie. Around our dwelling set angelic hosts to watch. Let no alarms

disturb our peace. Let no foes invade our home.

Our wearied frames require repose. Grant us sweet rest. Let grateful slumbers close our eyes. While consciousness remains, let our thoughts hold converse with our God. If this night our souls are summoned to depart, may they be swiftly borne to our eternal rest.

But if we leave our beds again, may we be renewed to love Thee more, and refreshed to serve Thee better. Extend these blessings to all our absent relatives and friends. We commend all to Thy tenderest love. May they all close this day at peace with Thee, through the atoning death of Jesus. May they lie down happy in conscience through the blood of sprinkling. And if they rise to-morrow, may it be to walk before Thee in newness of life. May these prayers ascend, through the merits of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

GIVE ear, O Thou ever-watchful Shepherd of Thy flock. Lead us, guide us, safely tend us this day. Without Thy restraining rod we shall err and stray like lost sheep. Hedge up our paths, lest we be misled into the unwholesome pastures of the world, and drink of its poisonous streams. Direct our feet, lest we be entangled by some secret snare of the devil, or stumble into his hidden pitfalls. Encircle Thy fold by Thy protecting power, that the roaring lion may not devour, nor any cruel foe assail. Remember Thy ransomed heritage. Protect, preserve it as the purchase of Thy dear Son's blood.

O Lord, we beseech Thee now to defend us, not only from outward adversaries, but especially from ourselves. We have foes which are verily part and parcel of our nature. They cleave to us as our very skin. We cannot escape their

contact. Help us to elude their enticing wiles. In public and in private, when we come in or go out, whether we rise up or sit down, they cling to our side. Deliver us from their constant baits. The old man yet lives within us and is mighty. Help us to nail him to the cross of Jesus. We earnestly desire to put him off with all his deeds, and to put on the new man, which, after Thee, O God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. If Thou speakest the word, the victory is ours.

But our own strength is less than weak. In our flesh there dwelleth no good thing. It is the vile abode of every corrupt desire. It is the den in which all hateful passions lurk. It lusts against the Spirit. Left to ourselves, we fall. But Thy Spirit is omnipotent. Oh! then, bid Thy Spirit to arise in all His might, and crush inborn opponents.

How often do we mourn that, when we would do good, evil is present with us. The good that we would, we do not, the evil that we would not, that we do.

We look to Thee to deliver us from the body of this death. Strengthen us with heavenly aid in the inner man, lest we faint and be weary in the conflict, and yield to our bosom-foes. The enemy is within the citadel. Come with Thine almighty power and cast him out. We know that they which live after the flesh shall die. It is our earnest desire to live before Thee now in newness of life, that we may live with Thee for ever in mansions of purity. Enable us, therefore, by Thy Spirit, to mortify all the deeds of the body. They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts.

O Jesu, we are Thine! Other lords have had dominion over us, but now we are Thy willing servants. Come, then, O Thou who art our Lord, pierce to the death—utterly destroy—abolish in us every particle of carnal life.

O Thou whom our souls love, we are grieved that Thine enemies so widely rule below. We regard Thy foes as our foes—Thy victories as our victories—Thy

triumphs as our triumphs—Thy glory as our glory. When will Thy presence regenerate the earth? When will Thy reign of righteousness and purity and peace be established? When will evil vanish before Thy bright beams? When will Thy descending chariot drive Satan into blackness of darkness for ever? We love Thine appearing, and we cry, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!

But while Thou art pleased to delay, infuse life into every effort to extinguish vice. Fill with Thy Spirit all sovereign princes, and all who sit on thrones of supremacy and might. May they reign as they who own Thy higher reign. May they wear the crown as they who seek the crown eternal. Especially bless the Queen who is called in Thy good providence to wield the sceptre of these realms. Grant to her, and her fellow-potentates, that out of godly hearts they may devise godly measures. Grant, also, to all who exercise subordinate authority that their desires may be right-

eous; their counsels wise; their aims sincere. May they seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness, and thus obtain all other things.

Teach us to yield obedience to them, as to Thine appointed ministers. In thrones and principalities may we see Thine ordinance for our good. May we show all godly submission, as instructed in Thy Word. Thus may our lives be quiet and peaceable in all godliness and honesty. Thou who hearest prayer, hear us, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

God Almighty, heavenly Father, at the close of this day multitudes surround Thy throne with praises on their lips. None can have cause to exceed us in thanksgiving. Grant that no grateful fervour may surpass our adoring warmth.

Thine eye of love has never failed to watch us. But our eyes have turned from Thee to countless vanities. We smite upon our breasts before Thee, and bewail our waywardness and folly. Thy gracious hand has ever been extended to preserve us. It is through Thy protecting care alone that we now kneel in safety in Thy presence. Ofttimes the enemy would have overwhelmed us like a flood, but Thy Spirit has lifted up a standard against him. Every moment has brought deliverances. Every moment streams of mercy have flowed from heaven. We confess with shame and contrition that we are not worthy of the least of all the

mercies and all the truth which Thou hast showed to us. If our hearts should burn in one bright flame of love—if our lips should utter no sound but glowing praise—if our lives should be one incense of thanksgiving, all would fall short of our vast debt.

We pray this night for large outpourings of Thy Spirit to kindle worthy love, and to awaken adequate returns of praise. If Thou shouldest permit us, in the plenitude of Thy goodness, to see other days, we pray that they may be passed in closer nearness to Thee, and deeper devotedness to Thy service. May Thy glory be the aim and end of every thought and word and work. At every moment let our inward cry be heard, Lord, what wilt Thou have us to do?

Send Thy Holy Spirit to reveal to us Thy will. May His voice be heard, This is the way, walk ye in it, when we would turn to the right hand or to the left. Through the riches of Thy saving grace we have received Christ Jesus the Lord,

as the way, the truth, and the life. Help us that we may evermore walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith as we have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

We know that we have no power of ourselves to keep ourselves. Our best strength is utter weakness. Our firmest resolves are as the morning cloud and early dew. Oh! then never leave us nor forsake us. Perfect that which concerneth our souls. Thou hast begun in us the good work of faith. Mightily carry it on, that we may be pure and blameless in the great day of Christ.

As children of light and of the day, may we not sleep as do others, but may we be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

At the end of another day's march we humbly wash anew in the all-cleansing blood. Thus we retire to our beds in happy assurance that Thou no more seest

in us the spots, the soils, the filth of former iniquities. We retire, too, remembering that another stage in our brief pilgrimage is passed, and that our opportunities of doing good on earth are fading rapidly away. Yet a little while and we go hence, no more to be seen among the children of men. Help us that we may gird up the loins of our minds, and quicken our steps, and speed as if each moment was our last. Give us grace to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

May our sleep remind us of the sleep of death; our beds of the graves which must so soon receive us. While we live may we live unto the Lord; when we die, may we die unto the Lord. Thus may our lives be happiness, and our deaths glory. Who are we that we should ask such things? We know and we deplore our miserable unworthiness. Our only hope is in Thy love, in Jesus

Christ our complete Redeemer and our prevailing Advocate. In His mighty name we thus address Thee. Hear and answer, for His sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

WE lift up our eyes and our souls unto Thee, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. Blessed be Thy holy name that we, weighed down by countless sins, may fly in spirit to the presence of our Father and our God. Through the multitude of Thine unfailing mercies we see the returning dawn of day. To the light of nature add, we meekly pray Thee, the light of Thy heavenly grace. O Thou who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, be pleased to shine more and more into our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Vain will be the gift of another day, unless we grow in grace, increase in knowledge, add to our stores of faith, and ripen for the ingathering into Thy garner. Help us, then, most mighty God, most mightily from on high. Is it not Thy blessed will that we should

know Thee as Thou art, and love Thee supremely, and serve Thee wholly, and adore Thee in every moment of our time, in every movement of our minds, in every pulse of our affections, in every faculty wherewith we are endowed? Through grace our will responds to Thine.

But the power to obey is not in us. Thou in Thy free love must work in us to do. Here, then, we present our empty hearts to Thee. Be pleased to fill them to overflowing with Thy choicest gifts. We bring our blinded understanding; chase away all the mists of ignorance and superstition by bright beams from the Sun of Righteousness. We would take our seat beneath the great Redeemer's cross; may healing streams continuously descend, cleansing us from all the filth of former days, pouring sweet balm into every grievous wound, and purging our consciences from dead works to serve Thee, the living God.

Help us too to gain strength in the rich pastures of Thy heavenly Word.

We bless Thee for the treasure beyond treasures, the open page of Thy Holy Scriptures. May we read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest, until our inner man be wholly moulded into gospel-form. From our replenished hearts may there flow forth rivers of living water. Let us minister to others as God hath given to us the measure of faith. From all vain words, good Lord, deliver us. We earnestly desire in all things to imitate Christ, who hath left us an example that we should follow His steps. Grace ever dwelt on His lips. He did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. May we be like minded.

While we thus pray, we remember the unprofitableness and the iniquity of our past words. They arise before us, black in guilt, testifying against us, calling for our condemnation. We would silence their accusing voice by burying them all in the deep grave of the Redeemer's wounds.

We again praise Thee and adore Thee

for the gift of Jesus. We feel that without Him we should be utterly undone. We believe that in Him we are eternally delivered from just wrath, and saved with everlasting salvation.

We now go forth to the vocations of this day. May we studiously cultivate the love of our brethren in the faith. Precious is the communion of saints. They who fear the Lord should speak often one to another. We know that Thine ears delight to hear, and that a book of remembrance is written. May that book record that holy converse is our chosen pleasure-ground. How rapidly might the spiritual temple rear its head, how brightly might the living stones reflect the rays of heaven, if we gave ourselves to the sweet employ of comforting one another, and edifying one another, and provoking one another to love and to good works!

We restrict not our prayers to our own need. We look around on the whole *family of man*. O Lord, add multitudes

this day to Thy Church even such as shall be saved. Compel Satan to release his groaning captives. Hurl him from his wrongful throne. Enlarge the joyful song of the redeemed. Translate many into the kingdom of Thy dear Son. So shall Thy glory be increased, and earth sing aloud of Thy praise. We add our hallelujah in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MERCIFUL Father, Thou God of hope and consolation, visit us now with the abundance of Thy heavenly grace. May we realise Thy life-giving presence. Holy Spirit, help us to come boldly to the mercy-seat. How great, how inestimable, are our privileges in Christ Jesus. Without Him, we must have stood afar off, as strangers and outcasts. In Him, we draw near, and touch the outstretched sceptre of the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the sovereign Creator of heaven and earth. Without Him, how could we dare to lift up our guilty eyes. In Him, we gaze with open face on God, as our Father and most loving friend. Without Him, we must hide our lips in the lowest dust of trembling shame. In Him, we open our mouths loudly in petition and in praise. Without Him, all above us is wrath and consuming fire. In *Him*, heaven is all love towards us, and

the home of our adoring souls for ever. Without Him, below us is a gaping hell, and bitterness of anguish without end. In Him, those gates are barred by His most precious blood, so that no redeemed one can be imprisoned there. Without Him, blackness of darkness spreads its horrors in our front. In Him, an eternity of bright glory is our boundless horizon. Without Him, mountains upon mountains of iniquity fill up our rear. In Him, the stream of His blood follows us, levelling all hindrances, and cleansing every vile blot. Without Him, all within us is terror, consternation, and dismay. In Him, every internal accusation is charmed into joy and peace. Without Him, all things external—the earth which we have soiled,—its creatures used as instruments of evil—call for our condemnation. In Him, the same minister to our comfort, and are ours to enjoy with thanksgiving. Therefore it is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at this time, and at this place, and at all times and in all

places, adore Thee for the unspeakable gift of Jesus, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

We loathe ourselves that we do not love Thee with more intense fervour. We abhor our cold, and dead, and contracted feelings. Take away, we beseech Thee, the chilly heart of stone, and give us hearts of flesh. Reveal to us to the very full Thy saving love in Jesus, the glories of His cross, and the infinite merits of His finished work. May we gaze on Him till we are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Blessed Jesu, when we thus sing Thy praise, poor and feeble as we are, we can find no measure, and no end. We long for Thine abodes above, where no thoughts shall ever wander, and no weary flesh desist. But while earth is our home, we pray Thee to grant that we may live striving with all our power to testify our grateful love.

It is our true desire that others now

afar off should know Thee, and be made partakers of our joy. Thou hast put it into the minds of men to establish many societies to labour in this cause. We commend them to Thy special grace. Give wisdom to their counsels. Suggest expansive means. May those who direct their work wax strong in faith, in zeal, in hope. May no seeming difficulties deter them. May no disappointments quench their ardour. What are the greatest mountains before the might of Jehovah Jesus? They shall be as plains. Go forth with all their toiling missionaries. The fields are white for ingathering, send forth labourers into Thy harvest. By their means glean multitudes from the desert of the world. Blessed, great, and glorious Trinity, three Persons, one God, hear Thy poor servants' cry. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Father, without Thee nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Conscious of our own weakness, trusting only in Thy grace and power, we beseech Thee this day to increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy. We are going forth to tread on slippery ground, do Thou uphold us. Our march is through a land of which Satan is the prince, do Thou protect us. Snares at each turn await our steps, do Thou guide us. We look around and fear. We look up to Thee and take courage. By grace only can we stand. If Thy grace should fail us, instantly we fall.

We cherish the sweet assurance that according to Thy sure promise Thou wilt keep us unto eternal life. Suffer not the strength of assurance to lapse into the weakness of security. To firm faith add firm sedulity. Stir us up to use all *diligence* to make our calling and election

sure. May we never forget that temptations will pursue us to the very gates of heaven. We know that we may run well and run long, and yet by grievous stumbling bring dishonour to the name of Christ. In Thy holy Word Thou hast erected many warning beacons. May we ponder and beware. Many examples are recorded for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Even angels kept not their first estate, but fell from heaven. Our first parents, pure from inward corruption, sinned in paradise. Judas, by the very side of Jesus, matured thoughts of foulest treachery. Faithful patriarchs have erred through unbelief. The meekest among men have in passion poured out insulting words. Peter boasts in self-confidence and instantly denies his Lord. We read, and flee unto Thee for succour.

Angels indeed are our ministering friends; but still the accursed spirit is ever near to seduce to evil. The new man is raised up in us; but the old nature

still lives, is active, and is strong. Rest is indeed prepared for us in heaven, but we may not rest in our way thitherward. The crown of life and victory is bright before us; but now is the struggle, the conflict, and the fight. Bright are the promises to them who overcome; but there is woe to them who draw back. Bravely we must fight, if gloriously we would triumph. We know that Thou wilt never desert us; and we look to Thee to give us grace that we may never desert Thee.

Strengthen our hands to cleave to Thee. Give us persevering might, that having done all we may sit down with Jesus in His throne, even as He overcame, and is set down with the Father in His throne.

Thus may we as Christian champions resist the devil, and give him no place. Comfort us with the knowledge that the evil day is very short. Set before us the life of glory, which has no end. May we strive against sin, as if *each failure* would be eternal woe. Help

us to stand firm, knowing that we shall tread Satan under our feet shortly. If through shortness of time he is more fierce, through shortness of time may we be more valiant.

Guide us, instruct us, keep us as the apple of Thine eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so, O Lord, alone do Thou lead us. If we be permitted to pass unharmed through all the perils of this day, and to unite again in prayer before Thy throne, may we meet to realise that another day's temptations are behind us; and may abundant praises swell from rejoicing hearts.

Be with all our kindred, all our friends, all who pray for us and all who ask our prayers. We have sought much, do Thou give more, through the merits of Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, who inhabitest the praises of heaven, to Thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry. Turn not from us, who meekly desire to intermingle our adoring songs. For all the mercies known and unknown of this departing day we bless Thee. From Thy free bounty they have freely come. Thou hast given Thine angels charge concerning us. Evils have been warded off, and in safety we now kneel.

Amazing love ! Thou hast sent Thine only-begotten Son to suffer in our place, and to achieve complete salvation. Thou hast added Thy Holy Spirit to be, our teacher, comforter, and sanctifying guide. Thou hast superadded the ministry of angels to be a wall of fire round about us. Thus all heaven subserves the welfare of us poor worms. Keep them, we pray Thee, ever active in *our* behalf. We know they joy when

sinner melt in penitence. May they joy too when grace in us expands. They have befriended us in many perils, and snatched our feet from many snares. Suffer them never to rest, until the conflict is behind, and we stand a victorious company on salvation's shore.

Grant that our proneness to all evil, and deadness to all good, and resistance of Thy Spirit's motions, may never provoke Thee to abandon us. May our hard hearts awaken pity, and not wrath. Let not the enemy through our corruption get any advantage. Let it be seen that heaven is far mightier than hell, and that they who are for us are more than they who are against us. If Thou but speak the word, we are more than conquerors over every temptation. If Thou smile graciously on us, we are more than beautified with every grace.

Hear then our wrestling cry. Arise to our help, and enrich us with all the blessings which the covenant provides. Keep us ever feeding in the pastures which con-

tain strengthening food, and ever drinking of the stream which makes glad the city of God. Especially cause the Word of Christ to dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May we search the Scriptures, intent on finding Christ, the treasure of treasures, the wisdom of wisdom, enriching to eternity, making wise unto salvation. May we turn every promise and every precept into prayer, knowing that it is easy with Thee to do exceeding abundantly above all that Thou hast said, and that Thy grace can help us to walk in the highest heights of Thy commandments.

But, alas! with all these true desires how often do our weak hearts offend. Grant that in every fall we may fall lower on our knees, and when we rise may it be to loftier flights of true devotedness. If for our godly discipline Thou seest well to visit our waywardness with a scourge; enable us meekly to receive correction, to bless Thy reproving hand, to discern wherefore the rebuke is sent, to repent *and do the first works*. Teach us to bless

Thee for every chastening, and let all Thy fatherly dealings make us partakers of Thy holiness. May our every cross be sanctified. May our every loss be our true gain. May whatever Thou art pleased to give, be a heavenward help, and whatever Thou art pleased to deny, be a spiritual advantage. If dark days should be ordered for us, may much affliction be lightened by joy of the Holy Ghost. Put into our mouths songs in the night of trial. If any trouble should tempt us to distrust ; may we be conscious, This is our infirmity, and may we remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.

Grant that the falling shadows of this evening may remind us that our earthly day is far spent, and that the night cometh when no man can work. If we see to-morrow's dawn, may we arise to gird up the loins of our mind, to quicken our pilgrim steps, to labour in the gospel-vineyard, to leave undone no work to which Thou art pleased to call us, to use

all diligence that we may be found of Christ in peace.

Give us the constant cry, Lord, what wilt Thou have us to do? Send Thy Spirit to beckon us onward in our appointed path. Enable us to view every circumstance in the mirror of eternity. May we go in and out with the great white throne conspicuously set before our eyes. May remembrance of coming judgment be ever present. Grant that to us to live may be Christ, so to die shall be gain.

O Thou God of all pitifulness fulfil the petitions of Thy humble servants, through the merits and intercession of Christ Jesus. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O God our Father, ever blessed, ever to be adored, the renewed gift of light and life, the restored use of reason and of limb, the recruited faculties of mind and body demand our warmest praise. We bless Thee that, in the riches of Thy love, Thou dost condescend to bow down Thine ear to our morning offering of thanksgiving.

Send Thy Holy Spirit now to kindle anew the flame of gratitude, and to prompt the words of adoration. We ascribe it to undeserved goodness that we have any measure of bodily and mental vigour. Many this morning open their eyes in weakness and in pain, their flesh a burden, and their minds a blank. We are made to differ. Teach us that these our gifts are freely given, and come down from Thee, the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Without Thy light our minds are all darkness. Seeing, we see not. We grope and stumble in the mazy paths of ignorance and error. Without Thy regenerating Spirit our wills are wholly depraved, and resolutely bent to resist the good and to espouse the evil. Without Thy distinguishing grace we should at this moment be afar off from Thee, vile among the vilest, bond-slaves of the devil, grinding in his mill, earning his wages of eternal woe. Without the visits of Thy Spirit our knees would not bow acceptably in prayer, nor our lips gladly utter praise. We ascribe all spiritual blessings to Thy sovereign will. Thou hast loved us because Thou wouldest love. Before we sought Thee we were found of Thee. Before we called, Thou didst answer. Before we knocked the door was opened. Accept the tribute of our feeble praise. Pity us that our poverty cannot offer more. We groan, being burdened, longing for the perfect day when sin *shall no more* shackle our adoring spirits.

Let us not withhold praise for the large measure of temporal enjoyments which gladden our path. We know that we are strangers and pilgrims through a world upset and soiled by sin ; but still how much abounds to cheer, to solace, to delight !

Thanks be to Thee for the enlivening rays of Thy glorious sun, for the starry canopy above our heads at night, for the balmy air which floats around, for the perfume of the summer breeze, for the verdant carpet beneath our feet, for the sweetness of the flowers, the richness of the fruits, the nourishment of the crops, the refreshment of the flowing streams, the melody of the groves. We thank Thee that such evidences of Thy goodness are inscribed upon the face of nature.

We thank Thee for the roof which spreads its shelter over us, for the board at which we sit, for the beds on which we repose, for our convenient clothing, for our sufficient food, for the happy

endearments of family and of kindred and of friendship, and for such competence as Thou hast been pleased to vouchsafe. Surely Thou anointest our heads with oil. Our cups run over.

Teach us, as recipients of such wondrous bounty, freely to dispense. Help us so to order all our matters, that we may have the luxury of relieving the need of others. Open our eyes to see in every case of penury and woe an opportunity of showing that we are followers of Thee, our most merciful God. Thus may the administration of our earthly good not only supply the wants of the needy, but be abundant also by many thanksgivings unto Thee.

Grant that earth may be the better this day because of Thy Spirit dwelling in us. Forbid it that we should be called, converted, enlightened, sanctified, saved for ourselves alone. So bless our godly example, our watchful walk, our holy converse, that vice may be rebuked, and *the* slothful quickened, and the thought-

less aroused. By the truth of our lips may the vain-talkers be silenced, and the sceptics convinced of their profanity. May Christ be now and ever so magnified in us that many may be allured to His cross, and receive Him as all salvation for ever.

We crave these blessings not for ourselves only, but for the whole household of faith. Through our united zeal and prayer may Thy great kingdom come. We humbly place our petitions in the hands of Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, in the wisdom of Thy tender mercy, Thou hast been pleased to proclaim Thyself as Wonderful—Counsellor—the mighty God—the everlasting Father—the Prince of Peace. These names are revealed for our peace and joy, that we may acquaint ourselves with Thee, and find rest unto our souls.

Help us by Thy Spirit entirely to know Thee according to Thy Word. Open widely the eyes of our understanding, that we may fully grasp the wonders of Thy person, very God and very man ; the wonders of Thy love and grace and power ; the wonders which Thou hast already achieved by Thy death, Thy burial, Thy glorious resurrection and ascension ; the wonders which Thou art achieving by Thine unfailing intercession, and by the continuous outpouring of the Holy Ghost ; the wonders which *are yet to come* when Thou shalt ap-

pear again in power and great glory. Let Thy counsels sound sweetly in the ear of our faith, and may we yield humble obedience to Thy sacred precepts. To follow Thee fully is heaven before heaven is reached.

Appear before us in all Thy majesty as the mighty God. Show us that the almightiness of Deity is on all Thy work. Enable us to realise that Thou hast begotten us again by Thy Spirit to newness of life; and let our conversation prove that we are sons and daughters of the everlasting Father. Rule in our hearts as the Prince of Peace, shedding abroad peace with God, and peace in our consciences by Thy blood, and peace with all men by the subjugation of every ungodly temper.

Pardon us, that with such bright revelations of Thyself in the pages of Scripture, we have been so slow to learn, so prone to forget. When for the time we should have climbed the highest heights of spiritual perception, alas! we

4

are grovelling in low depths of ignorance. We are blind while light shines around. Take away all scales from our eyes. Grind to dust all remnants of the evil heart of unbelief. Make it our chiefest joy to study Thee, to meditate on Thee, to gaze on Thee, to hold communion with Thee. Enable us to experience that Thy flesh is meat indeed, and Thy blood drink indeed. May we be like Mary, sitting meekly at Thy feet—like the beloved disciple, leaning on Thy breast—like Paul, counting all things but loss for the excellency of Thy knowledge—like Peter, appealing to Thee, who knowest all things, that we love Thee. Let not our faith cease from seeking Thee until it vanish in unclouded sight.

Bless the prayers which we this day have prayed, the praises which our lips have offered, and every godly work in which we have striven to advance Thy glory. Hear our cry in behalf of all the *great* societies which Thou hast estab-

lished in our land as instruments to extend Thy kingdom. Grant that every Bible sent forth may be mighty through Thy Spirit to cast out the devil, to demolish his strongholds, to give the light of life, to reveal Thy great salvation, to comfort mourners, to build up Thy saints.

Look in mercy on the unhappy lands over which darkness and superstition and idolatry spread their withering pall. Bless the holy missionaries who brave all toils, having Thee, the stirring motive, blazing in their hearts, and Thy pure truth the one testimony of their faithful lips. Visit with Thy compassion our deluded fellow-subjects in the sister-isle. Deliver them from the deceits of Antichrist. Illumine their hearts, that they may eschew all dangerous deceits, and in pure faith receive Thee as all their salvation and all their desire. Cause priestcraft, and formality, and every bewitching error, to wither before the brightness of Thy rising.

Ride forth, Thou King of kings, Thou Lord of lords, conquering and to conquer. From pole to pole let Thy great name be known. Breathe on dry bones and they shall live. Our hearts and souls yearn for Thy glory. Shortly accomplish the number of Thine elect. Take to Thyself Thy great power and reign. Rebuke the wrongful usurpers. Cause the Father's glory to be seen in Thee. Cast not out our evening petition. Answer for Thy love's sake. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

FATHER of heaven, God of all grace and love, help us now by Thy Holy Spirit to set Thy majesty before our adoring eyes, and to lie low in supplicating cries. We come humbly, because we come as wretched sinners. We come boldly, because we come in the mighty name of Jesus. Strengthen our faith, that we may refuse to let Thee go until Thou bless us with all blessings. The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, give us holy valour to take it by storm.

We are pained by our graceless hearts. We bewail our prayerless days, especially the vacant moments of this week. We know that whatsoever we ask in prayer believing we shall receive. It is then our vile sin that we are so poor in grace. We are sluggards in the heavenly race, we are grovellers in the mire, when on the eagle-wings of faith we should be soaring to the heights of heaven. What great

things have we lost, because we have not drawn near to take! What blessings we might have won for our homes, our parishes, our country, and the world, if pleading intercessions had refused to give Thee rest. Pardon the deadness of our poor hearts. Let future hours witness our importunities at Thy throne. On our knees may we be incessant in telling Thee our need and our desires. We ask for the very spirit of Thy dear Son. His abode on earth was one intercourse with heaven. Grant that our life too may be one sweet savour of devotion.

In our prayerful hours may we be frequent in asking that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Did Thy dear Son weep when He saw Jerusalem in the gall of bitterness and unbelief; and shall our eyes be dry when we contemplate the perishing multitudes of this sin-sick world! Our spirits should be stirred within us, when we reflect that the devil reigns *the prince* of this enslaved earth. What

present misery! What future anguish! What desolation now! What weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth for ever! Arise, O gracious Lord God, and turn this darkness into light, these regions of impurity and vice into fresh pastures of peace and joy. Thou hast been pleased to organise societies to diffuse the wonders of redeeming love, do Thou by Thy Spirit preside in all their councils, revealing to them Thy gracious purposes, guiding their plans as shall most promote Thy glory. Do Thou go forth with all their messengers of truth. May the feet of the gospel-heralds be beautiful upon the mountains of the east, amid the snows of ice-bound tribes, and under the burning heat of torrid plains. May multitudes at their voice arise, and cast their idols to the moles and to the bats. Cause the name of Jesus to be as ointment poured forth, and may distant lands glory in the saving cross, and swell the melody of heaven by ascribing salvation to the *Lamb*. Open our hearts to

pour liberal supplies into their coffers. Far be from us the hypocrisy of crying, "Thy kingdom come," and withholding the aid which, by self-denial, we might supply. Deliver us from all covetousness of earthly pelf, but make us avaricious of the praise which comes from Thee. May we weigh all things in the scales of eternity, and regard all possessions as less than nothing which have no value in Thy sight.

Blessed Jesu, we know that Thy glorious return will change the aspect of this groaning world. The earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. When wilt Thou take to Thyself Thy great power and reign? When will the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ? Precious promises have come forth as heralds of Thine advent. Why tarries the fulfilling glory? We long for the day when the Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in *Jerusalem*, and before His ancients glo-

riously. Hasten to remove all that impedes the descent of Thy chariot of triumph. By Thy Spirit make the mountains a way, and the rough places plain. Meeten us for that day of gladness. Then may we lift up our heads with joy, and shout exultingly, This is our God, we have waited for Him. We will be glad, and rejoice in His salvation. May our life now be life for Thee, that Thy glory may be our glory for ever. Take our humble prayers, and present them with acceptance, O Lord Jesu Christ, our Saviour and our all. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD our God, we thank Thee that we are called to the blessing of united prayer. Grant that Thy Spirit may so animate our common cry that it may abundantly prevail. May it fly upwards strong in adoring faith, fervent in expecting hope, fragrant in the Redeemer's merits.

Common need impels us. Common mercies prompt our evening song. In Thy kind providence Thou hast made us inmates of one home, and sheltered us beneath one roof. We thank Thee that Thou hast knit us together in this fellowship of mutual help, so that one renders service, while another is the directing head. May we in all good conscience minister to each other's comfort and real good. Let those who rule, rule wisely in Thy fear, remembering their heavenly Master. Let servants not forget the day *of final reckoning*, and do all as unto the

Lord, and under the power of the sure word, Thou God seest.

Especially make us helpers to each other's faith. In every domestic arrangement let reference to eternity prevail. Let considerate sedulity provide, that due leisure may invite to Scripture-study, calm reflection, and retired prayer. Considering the power of speaking and of silence, set a watch upon our mouths that no word may be unadvised, and let silence reprove when rash utterance might injure. Blessed Jesu, Thou hast set us an example that we should follow Thy steps. Be Thou so perspicuously our life, that to follow us may truly be to follow Thee.

While thus we pray, conscience trembles at remembrance of incessant failure. We would do good, but evil is present with us. The good that we would, we do not ; the evil that we would not, that we do. We have no power of ourselves to help ourselves. We cannot come *unto our God*, except our God shall

draw us. But draw us individually, then collectively we shall run after Thee. Sprinkle each one of us this night anew with the blood of sprinkling, and may it be our shield against all evil.

We retire to our chambers, blessing Thee for the hope which is laid up for us in heaven : for the inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Keep us by Thy mighty power unto the full enjoyment of the pleasures at Thy right hand for evermore. Ofttimes have our longing thoughts gone forth to the eternal day, when we shall see Thee as Thou art, without one cloud of unbelief, without the interruption of one straying thought, without the downcast look of shame, but when there shall be one bright blaze of glory for ever. We thank Thee that the lapse of another week has brought us thus far nearer. Ofttimes have we panted for fuller knowledge of Thee, our God. But we have only seen *through a glass darkly*. Our besotted

faculties are dull to comprehend ; but then we shall see Thee face to face, and know even as we are known.

This evening teaches us that the separating interval grows rapidly less ; that the night is far spent ; that the day is at hand. To many this night will be the last. It may be so to one or more of us. If such should be Thy will, may our entrance be very abundant into our heavenly home.

We knock at heaven's gate in the name of Jesus. We present ourselves washed from earth's every stain in the all-cleansing blood. We draw near, screened entirely in the Lord our righteousness. We come in the full assurance of faith, that Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, Thou God of truth ; that Thy every promise is very faithfulness ; and that Thou wilt do for us more than we can ask, or think, or hope. But if longer pilgrimage be our appointed lot, may refreshing sleep render us apt and active for the duties of to-morrow. If it be not

heaven, may it witness our meetening more and more for it.

Prepare all pastors for their more than angelic work; and all worshippers for their service in the sanctuary. May heaven on the morrow be opened wider, and more wide, to receive the upward stream of prayer and praise, and to pour down floods of enlightening and sanctifying grace. How merciful art Thou to permit us thus to pray. Multiply Thy mercy by most gracious answer. And to Thy great name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be eternal praise. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

WE give thanks unto Thee, O Father, for Thou art good, for Thy mercy endureth for ever. We give thanks unto Thee, O God of gods, for Thy mercy endureth for ever. We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord of lords, for Thy mercy endureth for ever. We give thanks unto Thee, O God of heaven, for Thy mercy endureth for ever.

Especially on this morning do we encircle Thy throne with praises, for while goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life, on this day we are called to the refreshment of public ordinances, and are admitted to proclaim Thy mercy in the midst of Thy courts. We beseech Thee, for all Thy tender love's sake, to

prepare us with the fulness of Thy Holy Spirit. May He come with all His mighty power, and wholly occupy our hearts. May He quicken us with newness of heavenly life. Thus may the pure flame of true devotion be kindled, and our understandings enlightened; and may our faith put forth new shoots in Thy earthly sanctuary. May the glories within the veil be realised, so that our peace may flow as a river, and our praises be sweet as the melody of heaven.

Above all, may Thy dear Son, our only Saviour, be this day more and more revealed to our adoring hearts. We desire to know the breadth and length, the depth and height of His all-surpassing love. Help us to gaze more and more with open eye on Him crucified, till we are changed into the same image from glory to glory. May we learn at His cross the exceeding vileness and terrible deceptions of sin. We would be taught to measure the infinitude of His tender *piti-fulness* by the infinitude of His sufferings

in our place. We would bring every sin of every moment of our lives, and cast them into the deep ocean of His all-cleansing blood.

We adore Thee, O God our God, for this gift of gifts. We ascribe this rich salvation to Thine exceeding grace as its true source. Thou hast found this ransom. Thou hast thus delivered us from going down into the pit. When we had wandered far like lost sheep, Thou hast laid on Him the iniquity of us all. We see how Thou hast loved us, in that Thou hast sent Thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We believe that with Him Thou wilt also freely give us all things. Oh then may floods of light this day stream forth from every pulpit! May ministering hands raise high the cross. Let every argument be the testimony of Jesus, and every precept and every exhortation draw their power from His death. May Satan tremble and flee far away. May it be felt that Thine ambassadors receive their

message from Thy courts, and speak only in Thy name. In holy intercourse may they be ever climbing the mount, and bringing down Thy precious truths.

Keep them from all undue admixture with worldly matters. Raise up pious helpers to relieve them from the deadening care of earthly things. Thus may they have holy leisure for undistracted prayer and undivided ministry of Thy gospel. Bless them, that they may be blessings. Teach them, that they may teach us. Sanctify them, that they may communicate sanctification.

Enrich with abundant grace all assemblies of Thy people. Enable us with one mind and one mouth to glorify Thee. May united cries pervade the courts above, as the sound of many waters. May answers descend as the morn's copious dew. May souls be sweetly refreshed, and put forth abundant fruit of every holy word and work. May heaven come down this day and tabernacle with man.

We forget not Thy servants labouring

far from their homes in the wide missionary fields. We bless Thee, that in Thy distinguishing grace Thou hast been pleased to call them to this glorious work. May the brightness and joy of Thy presence and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit so fill their hearts that no loneliness may oppress them. Help them to tread down all difficulties, to triumph over all discouragements, and in the fruit of their toil may Jesus see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

God and Father of the Lord Jesus, fan our faith this day into brighter blaze. May we expand more intelligently into the communion of saints. Open our eyes to see our oneness with the glorious company of all who are saved by the precious blood. Let our minds swell in blissful hope that we shall soon join the white-robed multitude, who adore Thee in unsullied worship, and cast their crowns before Thy throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power, for Thou hast created

all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. Hasten Thy kingdom, heavenly Lord, according to Thy will. We ask all blessings for time and for eternity, in the great name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

BLESSED JESU, through Thee we have access by the Spirit unto the Father. Through Thee we now draw near. Ever adored be Thy grace for this ready way, opened through the rent veil of Thy crucified body. Great High Priest, ever pleading at God's right hand, receive our sin-soiled prayers, cleanse them in Thy precious blood, perfume them by the sweet savour of Thy merits, obtain acceptance for them. Extend Thy wounded hands in our behalf. Behold us in the depths of our need, and pour down blessings on our waiting souls.

Without Thee all the public services of this Sabbath are but as the sound of the tinkling cymbal. But in Thy might they are mighty to prevail. Grant, we humbly beseech Thee, that all blessings this day sought may be abundantly ours. Nay, in the infinitudes of Thy sovereign grace give us much more than lips can

ask, or thought conceive. Fill us with all the fulness of God. Make our bodies the temples of Thy Holy Spirit. Consecrate all our lives as a living sacrifice on Thee our altar. May Thy Spirit now and evermore suggest every thought, move in every movement of our minds, beam in our every look, prompt our every word, guide our every step. To us to live may it be wholly Christ. Mould us entirely into Thine image.

We would be swallowed up in Thee. Mortify self in us. Help us that all our will may be absorbed in Thine. It is our deep desire to be spiritually-minded, which is life and peace, and thus to be ever joying at heaven's gate, and shining as consistent examples of godlike life. Grant this desire of our hearts for Thy great love's sake. How easy for Thee to replenish us with all goodness! Speak the word and we are filled.

O God, our Father in Christ Jesus, hear our Sabbath-evening cry for Thy *life-giving* blessing on all the labours of

Thy ministers and missionaries throughout the world. They have gone forth to plant and sow; but vain their efforts except Thou art pleased to give the increase. Grant that their faithful testimony may be mighty to pull down Satan's strongholds. According to the sure word, may Christ uplifted draw multitudes unto Himself. May they spring up as among the grass, and as willows by the water-courses. May they fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows.

We pray Thee so effectually to work by the subduing arrows of Thy gospel, that Thy dear Son may see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. May Thy word go forth, conquering and to conquer. Strengthen it as a hammer to break the rocks to pieces. Nothing exceeds Thy power. Nothing is too great for Thee to accomplish. Nothing is too good for Thee to give. Infinite is Thy might. Boundless is Thy love. Limitless is Thy grace. Magnify, we pray Thee, Thy saving glorious name.

Manifest unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places, by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God. Let the angelic choir more loudly and more sweetly sing because of sinners repenting, prodigals restored, outcasts brought in, rebels subdued, backsliders reclaimed, Satan's captives released, blind eyes opened, broken hearts bound up, the desponding cheered, the self-righteous stripped of their vain pleas, the formalist driven from a refuge of lies, the ignorant enlightened, brands plucked out of the fire, Thy saints built up on their most holy faith, and meetened for their inheritance in light.

We pray with especial earnestness for the young amongst us. May Thy Word enter into their inmost souls. May our youths be as the polished corners of the temple. May the power of Thy Spirit pervade all the teaching of our Sunday schools. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings do Thou perfect praise. Cause Thy ways to be known upon earth; Thy

saving health among all nations. Let the wilderness and solitary place be glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. We ask great things, but we ask of Thee, who art a great God. We pray for salvation to have free course and be glorified; and we take courage in the name of a glorious and almighty Saviour, even Thine own Son, Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

HOLY FATHER, Almighty Lord God, listen to the cry of Thy faithful servants. The return of this morning calls us to return to our week-day work. We see the world before us. We know our weakness, and we are prone to fear; but we look up to Thee, and we fear no more. If we venture to go forth alone, we stumble and fall; but leaning on our Beloved, we are firm as the everlasting hills. If left to the treachery of our own hearts, we shall bring shame to Thy holy name; but enlightened, guided, and upheld by Thy Spirit, we shall adorn Thy heavenly doctrine.

Hear, then, our prayer, and be our arm to support, our light that we may see, our strength that we may stand, our feet that we may run, our shield that we may receive no wound, our sword that we may repel each foe. Descend on us *as refreshing dew*. Be our sun to ripen

each grace. Thus may this day exceed all past days in fruitfulness, and meeten us largely to see Thy face in glory. To enrich us unto all fulness would not diminish Thy riches. To supply all our need would not detract from Thy boundless stores.

We remember the services of yesterday, and are humbled; but still we remember them, and take courage. Our deadness proved that we are miserable sinners. Thy forbearance proves that mercy reacheth above the heavens. We still live to cling to the cross of Thy dear Son. We still live to plead Thy promises. We know that they are all yea and amen in Him.

Suffer us not to add to all our sins, the sin of being forgetful hearers of Thy blessed truth. May it be mingled with faith in our hearts. May it thoroughly leaven the corrupt mass. Give life to the incorruptible seed, that it may take deep root and fructify to Thy glory. *Help us by Thy teaching Spirit, that the*

word of Christ may dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May it mould and form and shape our whole inner man. Thus may our presence always abash vice, check worldly-mindedness, and diffuse around the savour of pure godliness.

We pray that our lips may ever be imbued with grace, that all who hear us may be provoked to wisdom, love, and every good work. Help us so to order our daily matters, that sufficient leisure may be ours for closet-work and pious meditation. Assist us, too, by the lamp of Thy Word, and the piercing rays of Thy Spirit, to search every corner of our hearts. Let no Achan escape detection. Let every Agag be hewed to pieces. Let every idol be stamped to powder. Let every rebel lust be nailed to the Saviour's cross. Let holiness to the Lord be the girdle of our loins, the sandals of our feet, and the clear engraving on our brows.

We would be holy, as Thou, O our *God, art holy*; and perfect, as Thou, O

our Father, art perfect. And, having all hope in Jesus, we would purify ourselves even as He is pure. But Thy power must accomplish this. Thou hast worked in us to will; we beseech Thee work in us to do. Disappoint not our craving expectations. Shake not off our wrestling grasp of Thee. Give as a gracious God. Thou art the deep fountain of all goodness: may gifts without measure flow. Thus may our walk shine as a heaven-kindled lamp, and ascend as grateful incense to the courts above. May it be seen in heaven and on earth that we are a people made willing in the day of Thy power and consecrated to Thy great glory.

While thus holding filial communion with our God, we think of multitudes strangers to our joy. They are entering on this week ignorant of themselves—unacquainted with Thee. We compassionate their wretchedness. Thou hast made us to differ. Be pitiful to them, as Thou hast been pitiful to us. Then happiness on earth would swell as a river; and

glory in the highest would shine more gloriously. Good Lord, hasten the time.

Thy Word teaches us to make prayers for kings and for all that are in authority. In obedience to Thy will, we commend to Thine especial favour our sovereign lady the Queen, and all the royal progeny. May righteousness be the stability of the throne. When the earthly crown shall fade, may a heavenly crown be won. May the palace be a school of piety and the gate of heaven. With undoubting faith we place these our prayers in the hands of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Intercessor. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, Father of mercies, screened from all evil by Thy gracious providence, we come to encircle Thee with grateful praise. The past hours have brought fresh tokens of Thy goodness on their wings. Some who went forth strong as ourselves, in accustomed health and strength, have been snatched suddenly from this earthly scene. Others lie languishing, sorely touched by the hand of malady. Others groan in torturing pains, from unforeseen calamity. Others are weeping bitter tears, because of family disaster. The shadows of this evening drop a curtain on world-wide woe. But in our hands there is a cup of unmingled blessedness. No evil accident has darkened our path. No evil tidings have harassed our breasts. We live to bless Thee, and blessings we now devoutly offer.

Above all, we bless Thee that at every moment the throne of grace has been

open, and that the sceptre of Thy love has been extended to us. Pardon us that our prayers have been so few, so poor, so feeble. Whilst Thou art always ready to hear, and inviting us to close communion, our souls abide amid trifles and dally with vain follies. We grovel on earth, when we might ascend to heaven and Thee. Pity us, good Lord. Thou knowest whereof we are made. Thou rememberest that we are dust. O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

We come not in our own name seeking compassionate grace. We mention before Thee all Thy loving-kindnesses in Thy dear Son. We bring Him before Thee in the arms of our faith. We put Thee in remembrance of all His work for us. Whereinsoever we have robbed Thee of service, we offer His blood to pay the debt. Accept His worthiness for our unworthiness; His sinlessness for our sinfulness; His purity for our impurity; His *sincerity* for our guile. Put to our ac-

count His truth for our deceits; His meekness for our pride; His constancy for our backslidings; His love for our enmity; His fulness for our emptiness. Reckon as ours His glory for our shame; His perfect obedience for our incessant disobedience; His beauty for our deformity. Impute to us His devotedness to Thy will for our waywardness; His holy life for our unholy ways; His one righteousness for our manifold unrighteousnesses.

We hide ourselves in Him. We flee unto Him as our sure city of refuge. We know that in Him we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of all our sins. We rejoice that there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. Thus we cry, Abba, Father, in the name of Jesus, and retire to rest in peace.

While we delight in prayer and praise, we would not forget the multitudes who are now going prayerless to their beds. We should indeed be hard of

heart if we failed to feel for them. Thou hast not been unmindful of them, though they have lived far off from Thee. They have robbed Thee of service and of thanks. Let us plead for them, and adore Thy patience towards them. Oh ! that it might please Thee to all Thy goodness to add converting grace. All instruments obey Thy sovereign will. Command means to open their blind eyes, and to bring them as contrite penitents to their Father's house. Show to them Thy love in Jesus. Reveal to them the bleeding Lamb. Thus by Thy Spirit melt the rock, and snatch the prey from Satan.

We pray for all the sons and daughters of affliction. In Thee there is cordial for every grief, and balm for every wound. Wipe their weeping eyes, and help them from their hearts to say, It is a Father's hand, His will be done.

We remember too those whose lot on earth is hard. Poverty sits grimly at their board, and they lie down on hard *pallets* of distress. Give them grace to

think of Him, who, though He was Lord of all, knew not a pillow for His head. Let faith illumine their cheerless path. May it make them, though poor in earth's pelf, yet rich in saving grace, and heirs of the eternal kingdom. Hear our earnest petitions. Claim earth as Thine own, and so banish woe. We ask all the blessings which the everlasting covenant contains. Our trust is in Thy love in Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD JESU CHRIST, whom the heavens have received until the times of restitution of all things, abased in humility we look up to Thee as exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Thy people, and forgiveness of all their sins. Deepen in us, we beseech Thee, thorough contrition of heart. Confirm in us the assurance that Thy blood washes away all guilt.

We desire to walk lovingly with Thee as our great Redeemer; and humbly, because of our utter unworthiness. May true repentance pervade, as a flood, our souls, even repentance unto salvation not to be repented of. May our hearts be broken for sin, and broken from sin. May we be as slow to forgive ourselves as we know that Thou art ready to forgive us. While we gaze on the glories of Thy grace, may the sense of our *iniquities* cast us into the lowest depths of

shame. May we walk softly with down-cast heads, now that Thou art pacified unto us.

We bless Thee for the glorious Word : Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, I dwell in the high and holy place; with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Destroy then, we beseech Thee, within us every lofty thought. Beat pride to pieces, and scatter it to the winds. Annihilate each clinging shred of self-righteousness. Implant in us true lowliness of spirit. Debase us in self-loathing and self-abhorrence. Open the fount of penitential tears. Thus may our hearts be meetened for the indwelling of our God.

God the Father, take up Thine abode within us. Blessed Jesus, come with healing on Thy wings. Holy Spirit, descend with all Thy sanctifying grace. Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three per-

sons and one God, inhabit us as temples consecrated to Thy glory.

When Thou art present evil cannot enter. In Thy fellowship there is fulness of joy. Beneath Thy smile there is peace of conscience. By Thy side no fears disturb, and no apprehensions banish ease. With Thee our hearts shall be fragrant as the garden of the Lord, in which all graces bloom. With Thee we shall bear fruit unto holiness, as the trees which the Lord hath planted. Again then we pray, meeten us through repentance for Thine indwelling.

Blessed Jesu, the Lord hath anointed Thee to bind up the broken-hearted, to comfort all that mourn, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Thine must be the entire work. Break us, and then bind us up. Fulfil in us Thy gracious purpose. Perform in us all portions of Thine office. Lead us through the vale of godly sorrow *to the heights of heavenly joy.*

Hearken to our cry, Thou great Intercessor, while for others we now intercede. We look around; heart-rending is the sight which meets our eyes. This sin-sick world is full of levity and carnal mirth. Men laugh and sport, unmindful of the guilty hearts within them, and of the woful end before them. They think not how wrath burns against ungodliness. The day of judgment has no terrors for them. We know that such laughter will soon end in wailing. Gnashing of teeth for ever will be their doom. Oh! that it might please Thee to convince them by Thy Spirit ere it be too late; that, feeling their misery, they may flee to their only help. To-day, while it is called to-day, may they repent and live. May this day witness their awakening, for this day may be their last.

We remember, too, Israel's lost sheep; the children of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, Thy chosen servants. They see not Him whom their fathers pierced. Anguish enters not into their soul because

of the former iniquity, the present obduracy, their nation's unbelief. But it is decreed that Thou wilt yet turn away ungodliness from Jacob. Oh! hasten the time. Their dark night is bespangled with shining promises. We put Thee in remembrance. Do as Thou hast said. Let Israel fly to Thee as doves to their windows, and bow before Thee as their King. Hear, and answer, for Thy love's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

Most gracious Lord, whose name is Love, in love receive our evening prayer. Thou hast called us with a high and heavenly calling. Pardon us that our walk has been so unworthy of all Thy tender mercies. Day testifieth unto day, and night unto night, how good Thou art, how vile we are. Blot out all the transgressions which have soiled our souls since last we humbled ourselves together in Thy sight. Our sins are more than the wide sea's sands. But where sin thus frightfully abounds, grace most infinitely exceeds.

Look to the cross of Thy beloved Son. Remember the preciousness of His atoning blood. Listen to His never-failing intercession. By Thy Spirit whisper to our contrite hearts, Be of good cheer, lie down in peace, your sins are all forgiven. We thank Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we laud and magnify Thy bound-

less grace. It verily reacheth unto the heavens. It truly endureth for ever.

We pray for the world lying in wickedness. Mercy never wearies in strewing benefits around. How thanklessly are they received! How base is the neglect of senseless ingratitude! The iniquities of earth are loud to awaken vengeance. How justly might the decree go forth, Cut down the guilty inhabitants; why cumber they so long the ground! Hear our cry for the vast multitudes who cry not for themselves. Spare them, good Lord, spare them. Shut not up Thy loving-kindness in displeasure. Remember how short their time is, and while space continues, oh! be Thou pleased to give grace!

They are the creatures of Thine hand. Thou hast been pleased to breathe into them the breath of life. Oh! speak but the word, and these dry bones shall live; old things shall pass away; all things shall become new; the desert *shall* rejoice and blossom as the rose;

instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree; and it shall be to Thee for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. Thou hast endowed them with wondrous faculties of intellect, of mind, of body. How capable are they to do Thee service, and to magnify Thy name! Let not their powers wither like a blighted tree. Let nothing be misused in the service of the power of darkness—the wrongful tyrant of this enslaved world.

But especially do we implore especial favours on our own beloved land. Thou hast exalted us in loving-kindnesses above all the nations of the earth. Thou hast placed us on the highest pinnacle of privilege. The sun never sets on the dominion of our influence. We are blest with the knowledge of Thy great and mighty name. We are instructed in the glorious revelations of Thy gospel-truth. We possess the inestimable treasure of the open *Bible*. We read in the sacred

pages, how Thou hast loved us, and sent Thy Son to bear our sins on the accursed tree, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seek and to save the lost, and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We are therein taught that it is Thy will that none should perish, but that all should come to the knowledge of Thy truth, and that Thy dear Son never casts out sinners who seek Him in faith and love.

• Help us as a nation deeply and duly to ponder our awful responsibilities. Impress on us that we are gifted with our talents to trade with them to Thy glory. Show us that if we slothfully hide and bury them, the day will come when abused privileges will burst their graves and call for vengeance on us as unprofitable servants.

Deliver us, good Lord, deliver us, we pray Thee, from the woe of Chorazin, from the woe of Bethsaida, from the woe of Capernaum. To-day, while it is called *to-day*, let us tremble lest it be more

tolerable for Tyre and Sidon, and for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for us. Let us give diligence to devote ourselves, and all our opportunities, and all our privileges, to the untiring, undivided work of making Thee known in Christ Jesus to all the family of man. Hear us, pity us, pardon us, arise to our help, and quicken us to Thy work. These prayers are offered in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

MERCIFUL Lord God, Thine ears are never weary to hear, Thy hand is never shortened to bless. Visit us with all Thy blessings this day, we meekly beseech Thee. Needy and helpless, we cast ourselves on Thine unfailing grace. From our inmost souls we profess that we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. It is our all-constraining desire to live growing in grace, and in this saving knowledge. Give us then the help of Thy Holy Spirit. May He fulfil in us His loving office, and take of the things of Christ and show them in all their fullness, power, and beauty unto us.

Especially may the eyes of our understanding be enlightened to adore Him as anointed of Thee to be the High Priest of Thy Church for ever. We are exhorted to consider the Apostle and High Priest of *our profession* Christ Jesus. Enable us

to fix our meditations on this glorious object, to ponder the wonder of wonders, the priestly work in our behalf. May we behold Him, bringing Himself the victim to Himself the Altar. Deeply engrave on our minds the everlasting truth : that He spared not Himself, but willingly laid down His life, and shed His most precious blood, that we may be spared, that we may live, that our souls and bodies should not perish, that all our boundless debt should be completely paid, that our every iniquity should be purged away, that the mountains upon mountains of our grievous sins should disappear, that the crimson dye of evil in us should be whiter than the whitest snow.

May we now and ever adore our Jesus thus sacrificing Himself. Oh ! that our adoration might be warm as His heart towards us ! Open our eyes to see our great High Priest passed into the heavens, entering within the veil with His own most precious blood, and sprinkling the true mercy-seat. Open our ears to

hear the eloquence of that prevailing plea. It tells that redemption's work is gloriously finished, that every holy attribute is satisfied to the uttermost, and that all wrath is quenched.

Christ died is our answer to every charge. Give us thence the assurance that the blood-bought people must be saved. Increase in us the faith which is intelligent to hear Christ's never-ceasing intercession. We bewail our cold, our listless and our heartless prayers. Their poverty adds sin to sin. They justly provoke Thine anger. If our hope was in them our cry must be, Woe unto us, for we are undone. But show us our great High Priest, waving His golden censer, and filling all heaven with its fragrance. Then we shall delight ourselves in prayer, knowing that the worth of Jesus perfumes our feeble breathings, and wins acceptance for them.

We shall require blessings at every moment of this opening day. Great *High Priest* fulfil Thine office, and cease

not to pour down streams upon streams of needful grace. Bless us and we shall be blessed indeed. Bless us in all our employ; when we go out and when we come in; in every thought of our minds, in every word of our lips, in every step, in every deed. Bless us when we ponder Thy sacred Word, when we confess our sins, when we seek Thy face, when we wrestle with Thee in prayer, when we uplift the voice of praise.

Blessed of Thee, may we be blessings to all around. May we be lowly followers of Thy bright example. Thou didst live to bless. Thou didst die to bless. Blessings fell from Thine ascending lips. Blessings ever descend from Thine outstretched hands. Imbued with Thy mind, may our whole course contribute to earth's welfare.

Heavenly Father, look down on each thus bowing before Thy throne. Give sweet sincerity to our desires, intense earnestness to our supplications, burning fervour to our love. Let no unbelief

deaden our approaches. May we feel verily that Thou dost hear. May Thy Spirit bear witness with our spirits that we are Thine. May strong faith persuade us that answers, according to Thy will, will surely come. Amen, Amen. Through Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies, let our evening worship ascend as incense to the heaven of heavens. The name of Jesus is access to Thy throne, and in that name we bow the knee. We know that Thou resistest the proud; let, then, no lofty thought find resting-place in our contrite hearts. May there be no hindrance to the uprising of our lowly breathings. May there be no barrier to the outpourings of Thy mercy.

Who are we that pride should swell within us! Our original is the mire beneath our feet. Dust we are, and unto dust we soon return. In material we surpass not the meanest reptile. Whatever difference of form and intellect is ours, is freely granted by Thy goodness. Our every faculty of mind and body is Thine undeserved gift.

Thus low as creatures, we are lower far as sinners. We have times without num-

ber trampled on Thy righteous law. Sin's deformity is stamped upon us; its hideousness darkens on our brow; its loathsome touch has fixed corruption on us. Shall we, then, flaunt proudly in Thy sight? The lowest depths of self-abasement is our due place. We are far less than nothing in Thine all-seeing eye. Help us to see ourselves as we are seen of Thee. Then pride must wither, and vanish, and decay, and die.

Thy Word assures us that Thou givest grace to the lowly. Humble our hearts before Thee, and then replenish them with Thy choicest gifts. We know that nature's refreshing streams rest not on the barren summits of the high hills, but flow down to fertilise the lowness of the vales. May our position ever be the lowliest of the lowly; so may our spiritual riches exceedingly abound.

Enable us to walk on earth even as Thy beloved Son walked. He is our only Saviour and most perfect model. Let *His* mind be ever our inward guest.

He was meek and lowly in heart. Let His meekness be our all-covering garb. Clothe us entirely with humility. In all our intercourse with the sons of men, let no strife or vainglory show a hateful head.

Conscious of our sins against much light, and inward strivings of conscience, and teachings from above, may we always esteem others better than ourselves. Help us thus to manifest that we are born again. Thus may we exhibit conformity to the image of the blessed Jesus, the first-born among many brethren.

Grant the grace which we thus earnestly implore to all Thy children throughout all the world. Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might; let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Thee, the Lord.

May our happy place be among the

poor in spirit, to whom the kingdom of God belongs. Set us in the gentle ranks of the meek, whose is the inheritance of earth. Thus may we taste and find, that true humility is the heirdom of two worlds. And thus may we meeten for the day of glory, when we hope to cast our crowns before Thy throne, and sing with prostrate spirits: Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father.

Confessing our need, supplicating Thy grace, we cannot arise without intermingling most fervent thanks. Unless Thy merciful protection had kept us this day under the shelter of Thy wings, our lips would have been sealed in silence. Many who saw the morning sun as strong or stronger than we are, have fallen as a withered leaf. We live to praise Thee, and praise we fervently bring. If we see the morrow's light, may we more worthily *renew* our song. If we go hence this night,

may we through grace commence the
endless hymn of the redeemed. Grant
this for the merits of our Lord Christ.
Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

MOST gracious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Thou that art enthroned high in the glory of God the Father, vouchsafe, we beseech, to come in and occupy the throne of our hearts. We offer, we present them to Thee. Take full possession and reign supreme. Expel every opposing foe. Lay low every rebellious lust. Let no vile passion resist Thy holy sway. Manifest Thy mighty power. Make us Thine, and keep us Thine for ever.

Thou art worthy that we should praise Thee with our every breath, and love Thee with all the energies of our souls, and serve Thee in every act of our lives. Thou hast loved us with a free, a full, and everlasting love. When we were loathsome in misery and sin, Thou hast espoused us as Thy bride for ever; and hast received us as Thy portion, Thy jewels, the lambs of Thy fold, the members of Thy mystic body. When we were

worthless as creatures, vile as sinners, soiled and polluted by countless transgressions, Thou hast purchased us by the price of Thine own blood. Thou hast made us Thy favoured inheritance, the garden of Thy choice delights. Thou hast washed us from all our filth. Thou hast covered us with the spotless robe of Thy righteousness. Thou hast adorned us with the glories of Thy pure obedience.

When we were dead in our iniquities, having no eyes to see Thee, no ears to hear Thy voice, no taste to relish Thy joys, no intelligence to know Thee, Thou hast quickened us by Thy Holy Spirit, and brought us as new creatures into a new world of spiritual perception. Thou hast given us Thy Word to be our light, our guide, our solace, and our joy. Thou hast enriched us with a treasure of precious and most cheering promises.

What could have been done more for Thy vineyard which Thou hast not done for us! Thou hast loved us more than Thine own life. With loving-kindness

Thou hast drawn us. Thou forgivest our daily and hourly transgressions. No provocations part us from Thy sympathy. Thou wilt never leave us nor forsake us, until we safely reach the heaven of heavens, and sit beside Thee on Thy glorious Throne.

Help us then, oh help us, we beseech Thee, to walk this day worthy of Thee, and of Thy love, and of our hopes, and of our vocation. Keep us, we pray Thee; we cannot keep ourselves. Protect us, that no evil may defile us. Strengthen us to lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us. Enable us to run with patience the race which is set before us, looking unto Thee.

While still journeying as pilgrims upon earth, may our conversation be on high. May we in spirit be alway waiting for the glorious appearing of Thee, our great God and Saviour, who wilt change our vile bodies that they shall be like unto Thy glorious body, according to the *mighty* working whereby Thou art able

even to subdue all things unto Thyself.

Now we would go forth to our appointed work, walking by Thy side, leaning on Thine arm, holding sweet converse with Thee. May we be as the salt of the earth, a blessing to all around. Look with Thine especial favour on our household, our friends, our country. We commend to Thy gracious care our Sovereign the Queen, the royal progeny, and all who exercise authority in this realm. As a nation, great is our outward prosperity. We pray that we may be greater in inward righteousness. As a people may we fear our God, reverence His ordinances, keep His statutes, advance His kingdom. Glory be to Thee, gracious Redeemer, who reignest one with the Father and the Holy Ghost, now and ever! Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

HOLY Lord God, omnipotent in creation, unfailing in preservation, we would not end this day without calling upon Thee in behalf of all sorts and conditions of men. We desire to be large in sympathy, even as Thou art boundless in love. First we pray for kings and princes, and all who are called to exercise sovereign sway throughout earth's length and breadth. Especially we name her who holds in widowed hands the mighty sceptre of this world-wide realm. May her gifts be equal to her varied need; and where gifts abound may grace immeasurably superabound. Loved and sustained by Thee, may her reign be England's most blessed time. May her highest place be inheritance where all are kings and priests to God.

Give right wisdom and integrity to all who frame and administer our laws. *Grant that they may seek to establish*

the happy reign of peace ; as professing subjection to the Prince of peace. May they study to be just, as they who must stand before Thy judgment-seat. May they love mercy, as they whose only hope is in the riches of Thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Impress on their minds Whose ordinance they subserve ; and may Thy glory be their constant aim.

Diffuse throughout our fellow-subjects cheerful obedience to lawful authority. Teach us that the truest liberty is glad submission to righteous rule. Thus may harmony and concord pervade all ranks, and Christian love shed happy fragrance round.

Where wealth is granted, may liberal hearts liberally devise, and bounteous hands bountifully diffuse. May the rich remember Whose is the silver and the gold, and may they gladly distribute as almoners of Thy goodness. Let not poverty murmur at its lowly lot, remembering that Jesus chose the humblest place. May the cottage be ennobled by

the truth, that God hath chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him.

Look with especial favour on the aged. Smooth their descent into life's vale. Support their feeble strength. Let not the devil get advantage when powers fail. But lower them to their graves strong in faith, joyful in hope, rooted in love, redolent of every grace.

We commend the young to Thy tenderest care. How deep, how abiding are early impressions! While the soil is yet tender, may seeds of godliness be sown. Before Satan with his legion stealthily creeps in, before the world with its bewitching vanities allures, before corrupt examples beckon to destruction's way, do Thou, O blessed Jesu, enter and win their first affections, and mould their pliant wills. Show them in life's dawn Thy beauty and Thy glory, the peaceful charms of godly walk, and seal them by Thy Spirit as Thine own for ever.

Solemnize the minds of parents, that they may feel what a treasure is intrusted to their care, even the immortal souls of the offspring granted to them. May children never see in them an unholy look, or hear from them an unholy word. May tender consideration train the tender shoots. May loving prudence educate them, as their strength can bear, for the Christian warfare and the Christian crown.

May Thy Holy Spirit be the great teacher in all classes of all schools. May our youth be instructed that Christ is the mine containing all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. May they early learn that the fear of the Lord is true wisdom, that to depart from evil is right understanding, and that to be brave for Christ is the noblest heroism.

May servants serve as unto the Lord. May masters rule as servants of a heavenly Lord. Thus may every stone, from the foundation to the pinnacle in the social fabric, be cemented in Christian

harmony and peace and godliness. In every house may there be a church. May every dwelling be a school for heaven. From every heart may prayer and praise in sweetest fragrance be continually ascending. May our country's glory be its devotedness to the God of our salvation. Thus may our land bring forth her increase, and God, even our own God, bless us for ever. Holy Father, turn not away from the desire of our hearts, humbly presented in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

GRANT, we beseech Thee, heavenly King, that our morning worship may be pure in simplicity and earnest in godly sincerity. Truly to know Thee is truly to love. Truly to love Thee is truly to serve. Therefore shed abroad Thy knowledge in our hearts.

Cause all ignorance to vanish before the brightness of Thy light. Thou hast given us in Thy holy Word large records of Thy grace and love. May we feast on them, until our inner man is steeped in their sweetness. Strengthen us with the abiding thought that Thou hast loved us, and given Thyself for us, and that Thou wilt love us unto the end. In the manger of Thy birth, in the garden of Thine agony, in the cross of Thy suffering, and in Thy never-failing intercession, may we read the meltings of Thy heart towards us. Bold in this thought, may we this day defy our cruel

adversary, tread down his vile temptations, resist his arts, renounce the world, despise its vanities, and be valiant for Thy truth.

Deepen in our souls a sense of our holy relationship to Thee. May we know Thee as the spiritual Bridegroom of Thy Church, and may the wondrous truth fill our adoring minds with joy unspeakable and full of glory. We think of Thee, Jehovah's fellow, one with the Father, in glory equal, in majesty co-eternal, God over all, blessed for evermore. We think of angels veiling their faces before Thee while they worship. We think of Thy glory, and our vileness—Thy majesty, and our meanness—Thy beauty, and our deformity—Thy purity, and our filth—Thy riches, and our poverty—Thy righteousness, and our unrighteousness. We see the amazing distance, the infinite disproportion. Yet we believe that Thou hast looked on us with love unchanging and unchangeable, and *hast* espoused us unto Thyself for ever.

As Thou hast loved us, so may we love Thee. As Thou hast given Thyself for us, so may we give ourselves to Thee. As Thou hast died for us, so may we live to Thee. May we be devoted to Thee in every moment of our time, and every movement of our minds, and every pulse of our hearts, in faithfulness, purity, and truth.

May we never dally with the world, or any of its defiling allurements. May our walk be closely by Thy side. Keep us ever listening for Thy voice in the pages of Thy Word, ever holding communion with Thee, ever leaning on Thine arm. May we be clothed with every lovely grace, and adorned with the garment of Thy righteousness, which is the beauty of Thy Church.

O Thou, who hast done such wondrous things for us, leave us not, neither forsake us, until we sit beside Thee on Thy throne for ever!

Happy in our precious privileges, may our hearts be tender to commiserate the

unhappiness of those who are dead in trespasses and sins. We know it is Thy gracious will by the foolishness of preaching to save them who believe. Raise up then, we beseech Thee, a noble band of faithful men. Replenish them with every grace. Make them wise as serpents, bold as lions, harmless as doves. And put them forth as labourers into Thy harvest. Sustain their zeal as a blazing torch, until they return, bringing many sheaves into Thy garner.

Especially we pray Thee to keep our beloved country untainted by heresy and superstition. Thou hast visited us when darkness spread its deadly pall around. When gospel light glimmered as an expiring spark, Thou didst lift on high the banner of the reformation. Thou didst endue holy martyrs with heroism, braving all agonies in testimony of Thy truth. Enable us to strive, successors of their zeal, against all deadly error. May we stand as a rock against every approach of idolatry.

Without Thine aid, how soon might we relapse! The enemy threatens to come in like a flood. But do Thou help us, and we shall be strong. Preserve us, and we shall be safe. Uphold us, and we shall not fall.

Get to Thyself a great name in England as the bright home of truth and righteousness. Unto Thy great name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be eternal praise. Amen.

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FRIDAY EVENING.

HEAVENLY FATHER; we thank Thee that in Thy tender mercy Thou hast been pleased to plant us together in the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. Add grace more and more, that we may live worthy of this high vocation. Safe in our heavenly ark may we pass through the waves of this troublesome world into the harbour of eternal rest. May we fear no wreck, knowing that Christ is seated at the helm, that angels are our convoys, that Thy Word is our chart, and that our fellow-voyagers are the purchased heritage of Thy dear Son.

We have undoubting assurance that great is the Lord of hosts in the midst of His Church. Therefore will not we fear though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, and the waters thereof rage and swell. Teach us the inestimable

privilege of being portion of the vineyard which Thy right hand has planted, and for which Thou hast done such wondrous things. Rightly dost Thou require the good fruit of perfect holiness, proportionate to all Thy heavenly care. Grant, we pray Thee, that we may not be barren trees, or laden only with worthless leaves of profession, or boughs bearing only wild grapes. Water us with more abundant dews of blessing. Invigorate us with more ripening rays.

As members of Thy Church we believe that we are the Lamb's bride. As such help us to be true and faithful, chaste and loving, pure and devoted. Suffer no straying affection wantonly to dally with the pleasures of this world. But may we live raised high above the love of things temporal, and always listening for the cry, Behold, the bridegroom cometh.

We believe that our beloved Saviour, in tender love, gave Himself for us, that He might sanctify and cleanse us with the washing of water by the Word; and that

He might present us unto Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that we should be holy and without blemish. Accomplish this blessed work in us, good Lord. Here we offer and present our hearts unto Thee. Come in and establish Thine undisputed reign. Come and replenish them with hallowing grace. Come and meeten them for Thy perpetual home. Come and hold sweet converse with us. By Thy Spirit tell us more of Thy love. Cause all Thy goodness to pass before us. Enable us with open eye to gaze on Thy beauty and Thy glory, until we become wholly conformed to Thy likeness.

May Thy every promise be fulfilled in us. May Thy every precept be the pathway of our feet. Thus may we joy in the joy of being truly Thine. With such delights before us, suffer us not madly to turn aside to the husks and rubbish of this barren world. We are taught that the temple of God can have no agreement with idols. And are we not the temple of

God? And hath not God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people? Therefore help us to come out from among them, and to be separate, and to touch not the unclean thing.

Blessed Lord, hasten the time when all shall know Thee, from the least unto the greatest. Our hearts especially yearn for the manifestation of Thy mercies to Israel's lost sheep. Speak but the word and the veil shall no more blind their eyes. Pluck out of them the heart of stone. Expel the evil spirit of unbelief. Give them, according to Thy Word, the Spirit of grace and supplication. Turn their eyes to Him whom their fathers pierced. Cause them to mourn for Him as one that mourneth for his only son, and to be in bitterness for Him as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Glorious is their future prospect. Hasten it in Thine own time. When will this long night melt into day? Wherefore should the enemy so long trample them

beneath his feet ! The fall of them has been the riches of the world. The diminishing of them has been the riches of the Gentiles. Hasten their fulness. Bring in the day when all Israel shall be saved.

Give us grace never to put a stumbling-block in any returning sinner's way. May we rather entice them, attract them, allure them, win them. Grant that others may see in us, how good it is to sit beneath the cross, and through the reconciling blood to cry, Abba, Father. Answer us according to Thy rich promises to prayer. Let us not seek Thy face in vain. Hear us for Thy great glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

PRESERVED by Thy tender care, we live to see, most gracious Lord, the opening hours of another day. Increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy. Thy goodness to us has never failed. Past provocations have been no barrier to its constant flow. Thy nature and Thy name is love.

Through the helpless hours of darkness we have been safe. Helpless in ourselves we meet this dawning light. But we come to Thee for help in the name of Jesus. We cling to Thy protecting arm. We hide ourselves in Thee, our fortress and our sure refuge. We take Thee as our shield and buckler. Fight for us, and our foes must flee. Uphold us, and we cannot fall. Strengthen us, and we shall stand unmoved, immovable. Equip us with the whole armour of God, and we shall receive no wound. Stand by us in the conflict, and we shall tread Satan be-

neath our feet. Save us, and we shall be saved. Put the song of salvation on our lips, and our mouths shall shout aloud Thy praise.

Especially we beseech Thee to deepen in our hearts the abhorrence of all evil. May we hate sin with perfect hatred. It is the vile monster which defies Thy power, casts off Thy yoke, treads down Thy lovely law, defiles our nature, spreads misery throughout this earth, brought death into the world, and urged the spotless Lamb of God to the accursed tree. Teach us to look to Jesus on the cross, and so to estimate its loathsome guilt in Thy sight.

Could there be no pardon but through Thy dear Son's death! Could no cleansing wash out its filth but Jesus' precious blood! Could no atonement expiate the evil but the shame, the agony, the bruises of the incarnate God! We see the boundless price. May we read therein the boundless guilt. In the infinite payment *show us* the infinite debt. Thus may we

discern the deadly viper in its real malignity, and tear it with holy indignation from our breasts, and resolutely turn from its every snare, and refuse to hold polluting dalliance with it.

Help us, too, to learn in the all-sufficient sacrifice Thy tender and immeasurable love. May such love kindle mightily the flame of our responding love. May it blaze in our every faculty of heart and soul. May it rule throughout our inner man. May it consecrate our every thought and word and work a whole burnt-offering to Thy glory.

Blessed Jesu, at Thy cross may we be taught the awful miseries from which Thou hast redeemed us. Without Thy rescuing blood we must have been lost. Help us to ponder what the word "lost" implies. Thy warning word oftentimes draws back the veil. Send down Thine enlightening Spirit to make vivid the appalling scene. And when we read of fire which never ceases to burn, and indignation and wrath and anguish for

ever raging, and blackness of darkness for ever, and everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power : may we cling more closely to Thy cross ; may our faith adhere to Thee with grasp more resolute and more intense ; may devotedness to Thee become our total being ; and may our detestation of all sin be strong even as Thy love towards us. Work in us, we pray Thee, this transforming work. Redeem us from all iniquity. Purify us unto Thyself a peculiar people. May holiness be the atmosphere in which we live.

Smile too on our beloved country. Replenish all orders and degrees amongst us, from the sovereign on the throne to the lowliest cottager, with blessings from on high. Diffuse Thy knowledge. Establish the reign of Thy faith and fear. Send out Thy Spirit to put life into all our means of grace. Let our Bibles be duly studied, and may they vivify our hearts.

Give us intelligent gratitude for the

marvellous blessings of our Reformation. Increase our valour for its glorious truths. Arm us with holy resolves never to relinquish our inestimable treasure. Check every backward look to Rome's destructive falsehoods. Hasten the time when the Lord himself shall appear to consume the mystery of iniquity with the spirit of His mouth, and to destroy it with the brightness of His coming. We long for the day when truth shall be our unclouded sun, and when the deceits of idolatry shall be as a withered weed. We trust such prayer is Thy Spirit's interceding voice within us. Therefore we boldly offer it in the prevailing name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God of patience and consolation, grant us as a family, this night, to be like-minded one towards another, according to Christ Jesus; that we may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee, even the Father of our Lord and only Saviour. Glory be to Thee for this throne of grace. Make it ever to us the chosen pleasure-ground of our souls. May it be the fortress to which continually we flee. Here may we obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Here may we see by faith Thy reconciled smile. Here may we joy to plead the name of Jesus. Here may we sharpen the sword of the Spirit, anoint the shield of faith, and put on the helmet of salvation.

By prayer too may we gather supplies of heavenly manna, even the precious nourishment of Thy Word. Thus may we be strengthened for each conflict, nerved *for our upward race*, and empowered for

more than conquest over every foe. We know that Christ is an open channel for all blessings to descend upon us. Help us to apply, until the sluices of mercy widely open, and our souls be so replenished, that there shall be no room to receive more.

We marvel at our insensate folly, that when such enriching favours are within our reach, we are so slow to extend the hand to take them. Compassionate our deadness for Thy great name's sake. Quicken us, arouse us, stir us up, fill us with holy zeal, put strength into us that we may strive with Thee, and refuse to let Thee go. It is Thy glory to be vanquished by the power of prayer. May Thy Spirit within us wrest all blessings from Thy yielding hands.

We bless Thee for Thy holy Scriptures—for all their precepts—all their promises—all their light. Forgive our sad neglect of this most inestimable treasure. May we study the sacred pages with minds intent to learn more of Christ, with memo-

ries sanctified to retain, with wills resolved to follow.

We confess with shame past hours wasted in unprofitable reading. Counteract, we beseech Thee, the evil of a licentious press. Give grace to all to whom Thou hast given the gift to write. May ready pens be consecrated to Thy glory. May Thy Spirit direct all talent to the grand work of making this fallen world rich in true knowledge, and wise unto salvation.

If other days be ours, guide us that no more time be squandered in vain pursuits. We desire to grow in Thy faith and fear and love. We know that when we advance not, we must backslide. Deliver us from the misery of feeling that we did run well, but now our course is hindered.

Build us up in our most holy faith. Let us show out of a good conversation our works with meekness of wisdom. May we display gentleness and courtesy and love to all men. May we ever

esteem others better than ourselves. Help us never to be overcome of evil, but to overcome all evil with good. May we walk humbly, because of much good omitted, and much evil committed. Impress on our minds the shortness of time—the work to be done—the account to be rendered—the nearness of eternity—the fearfulness of doing despite to the Spirit of grace—the misery of lamps expired, when the voice of the bridegroom is heard.

May we never forget that Thine eye always sees, Thine ear always hears, Thy recording hand always commits to a book of remembrance, and that all hidden works must be unveiled when the judgment shall be set. May it be our one effort to approve ourselves as faithful servants of the Lord Christ. Above all things, may we seek His favour. Above all things, may we dread His frown.

Strengthen us to give Thee no rest, until Thou shalt reign supreme in our every thought and word and work.

Command what is well-pleasing in Thy sight, and give us power faithfully to fulfil the same.

As we shall desire to appear before the great white throne, so may we now appear in the sight of our God, and before all men. Increase in us more and more the gift of that precious faith which purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, and makes us one with Christ.

May Christ be the pulse of our hearts. May He speak in every word of our lips. May He shine in every step of our earthly walk. May we be very temples of the Holy Ghost—an habitation of God through the Spirit. Grant our requests for Christ's sake. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto Thee do we now come. Grant that by the eye of faith we may behold Thee bending down Thine ear of love to receive our feeble breathings. May our cries ascend perfumed with the incense of atoning blood, and so be welcomed with acceptance.

We shall prevail, for Thou hast promised. Smiles await us, for Thy Spirit intercedes within us. We shall be heard, for Thy dear Son pleads for us.

May we now be filled to the full with the Spirit of grace and supplication. In public and in private, in the sanctuary and in the closet, may our life be steeped in prayer. We thank Thee

that through Thy distinguishing favour our birth has placed us in a land in which Thy Sabbaths have external reverence, and congregations throng Thy courts. We thank Thee that in the village and the town church-calling sounds proclaim the return of this holy day, and invite to glad solemnities.

Rejoicing in our precious privileges, we think of the multitudes to whom this day brings neither repose nor peace. From the eminence of our hallowed position, we cast our eyes over the wide expanse of heathendom, and we mourn. We feel our duty towards them, and we bring their desolation before Thy pitying eye. Fervent thanks we render that we have not been left in their cold darkness. We forget not that the mercy which befriended us, can befriend them. We know that the power which rescued us, can rescue them. There is nothing too hard for Thee to do. We beseech Thee, then, to bless them as Thou hast blessed us. Send out Thy light and Thy

truth to the regions which enjoy not the calm delight and sanctifying mercies of the Sabbath. Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord ; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old.

We pray with more earnest wrestling for those around us, who, in the midst of all Christian privileges, wilfully choose darkness rather than light. Gracious Lord, forget them not, while they thus slight Thee. Manifest the freeness of Thy grace by subduing their obdurate rebellion. Reign in the midst of these enemies. Compel them to come in. We tremble, lest the heathen should rise up in the judgment and condemn them for so despising Thy proffered mercies.

Grant that the mind of Christ may pervade us. He never wearied in pouring out His heart to Thee. In the days of His flesh, He offered up prayers and supplications, with strong crying and tears. May we thus take heaven by storm.

Open Thine hands wide to pour down

streams of blessing on all who shall publicly teach in Thy name. May they stand between the living and the dead, and may the destroying plague be checked. Give them to feel deeply that eternal interests hang on their lips. May their every word be everlasting truth. May they so labour that at last they may be welcomed as good and faithful servants.

May we not be forgetful that this may close our Sabbaths upon earth. The next return may see our places vacant. May it then be our best. May it find us ready, in Thy dear Son, to join the ever-hymning choir.

May our devotions in Thine house stimulate many. May the thoughtless see in us how good it is to draw near to Thee, our God. May the formalist be taught by our sincerity that Thou art a Spirit, and they that worship Thee must worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

Remember, O Lord, with tender love the sufferers on whom Thou hast been pleased to lay the hand of detaining sick-

ness. Their feet may not tread Thy courts. Do Thou come down and visit them. Let the light of Thy countenance shine sweetly in their chambers of languishing. Let Thy voice whisper through their souls : Peace be unto you ; it is I, be not afraid. May their joyful experience testify that Thy presence is not confined to place.

But while our hearts drink deeply of the streams which make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High, multitudes will make this a day of especial sin. Thine eye will behold trespasses growing up unto the heavens. Merciful Lord, suffer not Thy just wrath to go forth. Spare these captives of Satan. Extend to them longer space. Above all, touch them with converting grace. Magnify the riches of Thy lovingkindness. Get to Thyself a glorious name, by giving life to the dead, and light to the blind. Thus we present our earnest cries in the all-prevailing name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

LORD of all power and might, Thou that art the author and giver of all good things, help us by Thy grace to close this Sabbath-day in close fellowship with Thee. It was the early desire of our hearts to be wholly in the Spirit throughout this day. The review of its hallowed hours causes us to hide our faces in the dust of shame. Our best work is vile and hateful in our own sight. What, then, must it be in Thine! If our purest service is unclean, how must our open transgressions rise in condemnation! Have mercy, have mercy upon us, for Thy dear Son's sake. Have mercy, have mercy upon us, according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies. Have mercy, have mercy upon us, for the great glory of Thy great name.

We are heartily sorry for the misdoings of this day. Forgive us all that

is past. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, take away all our guilt. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, receive our prayer. Great Intercessor, plead in our behalf.

May we retire to our rest this night, O blessed Saviour, in the happy assurance that Thy blood cleanses from all sin. We know that Thou wilt never cast out the persons or the prayers of those who flee to Thee. To Thee do we now come. We clasp by faith Thy precious promises. We cling to Thy saving cross. We desire to wrestle with Thee in the might of faith, not letting Thee go, until Thou bless us.

Bless us by revealing to us more and more of the saving merits of Thy passion. Bless us by causing all Thy goodness to pass before us. Bless us by lifting up the light of Thy countenance upon us. Bless us by speaking peace to our contrite hearts. Help us to bless and praise

Thee now, even as we hope to bless and praise throughout the endless age.

Give us more of the joy of Thy salvation. We would be fruitful, as trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. Enable us to keep ourselves pure from all the corrupting stains of this world. May we appear among men as the Lamb's bride, clothed with the garments of salvation, covered with the robe of righteousness.

This day the silver trumpet of Thy truth has sweetly sounded in countless assemblies. Oh! that Thy Spirit may have worked triumphantly. May no word have been unprofitable, because of lack of faith in the hearer's heart. May no grain of precious seed have failed to take deep root. Speak but the word, Let there be light, and there shall be light. Say, Let there be sight, and opening eyes shall see, and awakened souls shall live.

If in any pulpits this day darkness has been put for light, and noxious poison for *the bread of life*, we pray Thee, of Thy

sovereign grace, to counteract the evil. Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let them also that hate Him flee before Him.

Dissipate all the dark clouds of prejudice and pride and self-conceit. Cast to the winds the empty husks of formality. Expose to shame all the flimsy refuges of self-righteousness. Humble the conceit of every elated heart. Let the desperate wickedness of the natural heart be seen, and felt, and hated, and renounced. Let Jesus Christ alone be exalted in the majesty of His person, the perfection of His work, the beauties of His grace, the triumphs of His power, the unchangeableness of His will, the infinitude of His love, the boundlessness of His salvation.

Thus may Thy glorious kingdom come. Thus may all Thine enemies be crushed. We mourn that Thy dear Son should still be the despised and rejected of men, and that His truth should be slighted and trampled under foot. We mourn that

many who profess to value Him as the pearl of great price should so often be ashamed of His saving name. Deliver us from such awful guilt. As with our hearts we believe unto righteousness, so with our mouths may we openly confess unto salvation.

Gracious Father, now go with us to our bedside worship. Draw nearer to us. May we not leave Thee, until slumber seals our eyes, and forgetfulness lulls our senses. If we should have sleepless hours, give us tranquillising thoughts of Thee. May we feel that Thou art very near, and may Thy faithful love be the pillow of our weary minds. If dreams be ours, may they be hallowed and serene. Thus may we arise refreshed to run our upward race. Let our prayers prevail for Thy love's sake in Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

GRACIOUS Lord God, at the opening of the first working day of another week, we come to shelter ourselves beneath the covert of Thy protecting wings. It is of Thy tender mercy that we now live. It is of Thy boundless grace that we draw near to meet Thee at Thy mercy-seat.

Our little barks are now entering on the troublous waves of the restless world. Grant that Thy Holy Spirit may sit at the helm and steer us safely. Suffer no adverse current to divert our heavenward course. Amid storms and shoals, if such imperil us, let not our faith be wrecked, or our souls' concerns take any damage. Bring us to its close with garments unspotted, consciences unwounded, and no grace bedimmed.

Strengthen us to take a decided stride towards heaven. And may we allure many into the narrow way of life, and

hive rich stores of experience of Thy faithfulness and truth.

Write deeply by Thy Spirit's pen the lessons of yesterday upon the tablets of our mind. Soften us as yielding wax. Impress on us Thy heavenly image. Thou art the potter; we are the clay. By Thy preached word mould us and form us into thorough conformity to the likeness of Thy dear Son. May our whole aspect show the lineaments of the first-born among many brethren. May all who see us take knowledge of us that we belong to the household of faith, that we are children of God, heirs of God, joint-heirs of Christ. May our citizenship be above. May we breathe the atmosphere of purity and godly love.

Give especial efficacy to all means of grace. Through them keep us Thine for ever. We ask great things. We expect great things. We doubt not that we shall receive great things. We boldly come to Thee in Christ Jesus. In Him we trust Thee without one mis-

giving doubt. For we hear the proclamation of Thy name, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. We hear, we believe, we adore.

We venture on Thee, we venture wholly, we venture fully. We come to our Father's arms. It is our privilege and our joy to recount all that Thou art to us, and all that Thou hast done for us. While we strive to conceive Thy greatness and Thy goodness, we find that Thy love excels all knowledge. But we delight to sing, Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds: Thy righteousness is like the great mountains: Thy judgments are like the great deep. Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy. He

will turn again ; He will have compassion upon us ; He will subdue our iniquities ; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which Thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Tightly clasping these heaven-sent assurances, taking them as our staff and our shield, the light of our countenance, and the very joy of our hearts, we now go forth to our daily duties.

We humbly desire that our contracted hearts may be expanded by Thy Spirit to look beyond our own need, and to embrace in our sympathies the whole family of man. Multitudes throng this earth into whom Thou hast breathed the breath of life. But their souls live not to Thee. They bring no glory to Thy great name. The song of heaven swells with no praises from their lips. They wrong Thee. They defraud Thee of the service which is so justly due.

We are bold and earnest to bring their

misery to Thee, the God of all tender compassion. We name them meekly, knowing that Thou, the God of the whole earth, art doing right. We know that Thou art all wisdom; while we by nature grope in blindness. But we trust it is of Thy Spirit that we feel pity for their forlorn and perishing estate. Thus we pray Thee to snatch them as brands from the burning. Raise them to shine above the brightness of the stars, as gems in the mediatorial crown of Jesus.

Bless, O God of love, Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, all the missionaries who leave our shores. Give life to all our efforts in behalf of heathendom. Prosper all our desires to advance the gospel-truth. Hear all our prayers for those who know Thee not. Accept these humble supplications and these poor praises. We present them in the all-prevailing name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS Lord God, Thy protecting wings have sheltered us during all the perils of this day. For such boundless mercy we render our united praise. But while we praise, we chide our dull hearts, that they are not one flame of adoring love. We loathe ourselves for all our shortcomings. But no deficiency is more hateful to us than the poverty of our thanksgivings. If angels veil their faces when they stand before Thee, into what dust of shame should we sink low !

But in faith of Thy dear Son's most glorious work for us, we look forward to the days of heaven, when no languor shall oppress, no iniquities shall chill, no thoughts shall stray, no mists of unbelief shall dim our gaze. Our hearts throb for the time when zeal shall never tire. Oh ! when shall we see Thee as Thou art, and offer the pure hallelujahs of perfect love.

How marvellous is Thy loving-kindness, that Thy faithful promises should spread such prospects before our longing eyes. We are called to regard heaven as our home for ever. We feast on the grand words : Father, I will that they whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which Thou hast given Me : and the glory which Thou gavest Me, I have given them. So shall we ever be with the Lord.

We receive these bright assurances as the stay, the prop, the cheering comfort of our souls. The voyage seems sometimes long. The waves lift up overwhelming heads. The storms are fierce and pitiless. But Christ holds the helm. Thy word secures safe passage. The haven will be surely gained. Free grace bestows on us the mighty pledge. Therefore our vile unworthiness can never hinder. The worthy price of Thy dear Son's blood has bought these heavenly homes. No worth of ours is needed to

fill the scales which hold His merits. We rejoice in the seal of Thy Holy Spirit, the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession.

Thou hast been with us this day. We know that when Thou beginnest a good work, Thou wilt perform it. None can stay Thy hand, or pluck Thy people from Thee. Repentance is hid from Thine eyes. Thou hatest putting away. Therefore, without one fear, we trust Thee, that we shall be with Thee for ever.

Grace prevents, and grace will follow. Not one link of the glorious chain can ever fail. It is written, Whom He did predestinate, them He also called, and whom He called, them He also justified, and whom He justified, them He also glorified. We read, we believe, we adore.

We cling to these promises as the anchor of our sin-tossed souls. We rejoice, amid all our unworthiness, in hope of the glory of God. In humble confidence we now commend to Thee our-

selves, and all belonging to us for the hours of approaching darkness. If it be Thy blessed will to raise us again from our beds of slumber, may we diligently use the prolonged space to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. Eschewing all earthly vanities, may we trim our lamps, and shine as lights in the world. May we live as kings and priests unto Thee and to Thy glory.

If we see future days, may every step cement us more closely to our beloved Lord, and render us more conformed to His image. Help us in all things to have a conscience void of offence towards Thee, and towards all men. May we ever grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We beseech Thee also to stand by the beds of those on whom death is now placing its icy hand. Oh! that they might be enabled each one to say: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation. May each dying whisper be:

Into Thine hands I commend my spirit,
for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord
Thou God of truth. May they die,
as we hope to die, when our last hour
shall come. Thus may the realms of
light be peopled, and others in their
place spring up to fight the good fight of
faith, and to testify for Thee on earth.
Pour down on us and all Thy flock, all
the blessings sealed to Thy people in the
everlasting covenant of grace. Hear us,
bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, maker of all things, judge of all, Thy covenant, that day and night shall not fail, abides unbroken. May we be thus reminded that Thy better covenant of eternal love in Jesus Christ is unchangeableness and truth. In this glad confidence we come as a family this morning to commit ourselves to Thy faithful care. We have no power of ourselves to help ourselves. There is no safety for us but under the shelter of Thy protecting wings. Spread their covert around us. So no evil can approach to hurt.

We shall be exposed this day to Satan's malice and attacks. Do Thou by Thine outstretched arm repel him. He will desire to have us, that he may sift us as wheat. Hear the prayer of Jesus in our behalf that our faith fail not. Converted, may we strengthen others.

We confess the treachery of our sin-

sick hearts. They are ready to dally with our many foes. They are not slow to give admittance. Do Thou be pleased to bar fast the portals, and may Thy blessed Spirit fortify their every inlet.

Our feet are set in slippery places. Hold up our goings in the everlasting way. May no fall soil the white robes of our purity. May no backslidings cause dishonour to Thy name. This day will bring us nearer to our heavenly home. May each moment witness our ripening for it.

We now go forth ignorant of the circumstances which may demand attention. Grant that in every transaction our holy consistency may shine before men, and lead them to glorify our Father which is in heaven. May we be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. May our peace flow as a river, and our righteousness as the waves of the sea. Let that mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus. Preserve us holy, harmless, undefiled, *separate from sinners*. Especially solemnize

our spirits. May we live circumspectly, abounding in holy meditation. Give us the skill to convert each circumstance into prayer. Thus may we be shielded against the surprise of unexpected evil.

We know not who may have interchange of thought with us. Grant that they who address us may be channels of good. May we too minister good to them. Set a guard upon our mouths. Keep the door of our lips. May we bear in mind that eternal interests hang on life's little moments. Let our speech be always with grace. May others have cause to rejoice that they have been brought into contact with us. If we should have intercourse with any who are thoughtless and ungodly, so bless our converse that it may win them to the paths of peace. Grant that they may see in us that religion is a real treasure, enriching with most sacred joy, and ennobling with true nobility.

Especially make us kind and tender-hearted one towards another, bearing one

another's burdens, and so fulfilling the law of Christ. Let gentleness and love be the halo round our path. Smooth every asperity of temper. May we never forget how easy it is to occasion grief, and to inflict rankling vexation. May we rather strive to bind up every wound, to pour oil into every bleeding heart, and to cause the sons of sorrow to change their mourning into gladness.

Thus may the world be the happier and the better, because we live. May our communications sow around the good seed of grace. Send down the dew of Thy blessing and the rays of Thy Spirit, that every seed may yield fruit to Thy glory. May our tents be always pitched beside the Redeemer's cross. Fix our loving gaze intently on His death and passion. Knowing the iniquity which cleaves to our best efforts and our holiest walk, may we be ever plunging into the fountain which is opened in His side. There may we wash and be clean. May our constant prayer be, Purge us with

hyssop, and we shall be clean ; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Help and defend us, until from praying ground we pass to the realms of unceasing praise. We thus beseech Thee for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

BLESSED Lord God, urged by our need, invited by Thy promises, called by Thy grace, as a family we enter in spirit into Thine immediate presence. We worship Thee in lowly reverence and godly fear. We are filled with awe when we contemplate Thy majesty, Thy greatness, Thy holiness, Thy glory. But we take courage, when we remember Thy boundless love, Thine immeasurable goodness. Each hour of the day now fled brought tender mercies to our hearts and home. For known deliverances we bless Thy holy name. For benefits unnumbered and unknown we bring the tribute of our fervent praise.

We feel that every moment records our deep debt in Thy book of reckoning. We are all poverty as well as guilt. We have nothing of our own wherewith to pay. But we are rich, for Jesus is

ours, and we are His. We bring Him in the arms of our faith. We present Him as more than counterpoising all our iniquities. We rejoice in believing that the scales in our behalf weigh down, and that Thy justice is more than satisfied.

May we this night and evermore be found in Him, not having our own righteousness, which we utterly abhor, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of Thee, O God, by faith.

We humble ourselves for faculties misused, and many opportunities neglected. Vouchsafe, we pray Thee, that no harm may spring up from our unadvised words. Whereinsoever our example has been amiss, may Thy grace erase all mischievous impression. Let not any worthless seed, sowed inadvertently by our careless hands, take root, and bring forth fruit to injure or mislead. Suffer not Thy holy name to be blasphemed through us. Pardon our vanity, our

levity, our want of watchfulness, our foolish walking, our inconsiderate ways.

May no evil result from fretful temper, unseemly carriage, or provoking pettishness in us. If by unkindness we have wounded any heart, do Thou pour in the balm of heavenly consolation. If we have turned coldly from need, and misery, and grief, do not Thou in just anger turn from us. If we have withheld relief from penury and pain, do not Thou withhold Thy gracious bounty from us. But by Thy Spirit cause our hearts to be an overflowing ocean of tender love and godly compassion.

Give us without measure that most excellent gift of love which suffereth long and is kind, which envieth not, which vaunteth not itself, which is not puffed up, which doth not behave itself unseemly, which seeketh not its own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth

all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, and never faileth.

Thus may we be imitators of Thee, our ever-loving God, whose name is Love. Thus may we shine as disciples of our adored Lord, who has left us His especial commandment, that we love one another. May the robe of love be our clothing, the reign of love be established in our hearts, and the law of love constrain our words and works.

Good Lord, many of Thy servants are labouring to promote Thy glory. Bless every word which has fallen from godly lips. Sanctify every visit to the cells of misery, and huts of penury, and chambers of sickness, and abodes of suffering. Give power to those who are taking counsel to devise more extended schemes of benevolence. Fructify all efforts to send Thy glorious gospel to the dark, the ignorant, the perishing, at home and abroad. Visit with mercy the heathen, the Jew, the infidel, the heretic,

the formalist, and the idolater. If Thou but speak the word, what wondrous conversions will ensue! Earth waits for Thy blessing. Bless it, O our Father. Bless it, gracious Jesus. Bless it, Thou Holy Spirit. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

HOLY, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which wast, and art, and art to come, to Thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. By Thy Spirit tune our hearts and souls to swell the hymn of adoration. Cherubin and Seraphin veil their faces while they worship. Into what lowliness of shame should we poor sinners sink! We humble ourselves. But still in the name of Jesus we venture to lift up our eyes. Hear us and bless us for His sake with all enriching blessings. Sanctify the day, the threshold of which we are now permitted to cross.

We earnestly desire throughout its hours to testify our love. Give us power to show to all around that we are not our own, but Thy purchased heritage. May we never forget that we are bought by the precious blood of the redeeming Lamb. Enable us to live unreservedly unto Thee. May we magnify Thy name,

sound aloud Thy praise, and advance the kingdom of righteousness and true holiness. Invigorate us to bring forth abundant fruit worthy of our high calling and Thy marvellous goodness towards us.

Apart from Thy dear Son, we are nothing, and can do nothing. Left to ourselves, our desires languish, our hearts relapse to deadness, our hands hang down, our efforts wither as a blighted blossom. But leave us not we meekly pray.

Send to us unfailing succour from Thine holy place. Cement and intensify our oneness with our beloved Lord. The branch cannot bear fruit, except it abide in the vine. Neither can we, except we are engrafted in Him. May we more closely abide in Him. May our faith adhere to Him more immovably. May our love entwine itself around Him more tightly. May we be wholly one with Him. May He be wholly one with us. May His Spirit perfectly pervade us, and be intermixed with every fibre of our inner man. *May every pulse of our hearts be Christ.*

Interwoven with Christ, the true foun-

dation, may we be built up as lively stones, a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable unto Thee by Him. Empower us thus to advance in all true godliness, until the top stone of our salvation be brought forth with shouts of grace to it, grace to it.

We rejoice that we are very members incorporate of His mystical body. We adore Him as our glorious Head. Help us to grow up into Him in all things; from whom the whole body, fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Thus may we promote Thy kingdom upon earth, and hasten the time when Thy will shall reign unrivalled and supreme. We desire always to be occupied in some distinct object of spiritual concern. Make our feet joyful to seek the abodes of ignorance and vice, that we may *be ministers of good*. Pour upon our lips

the fitting words of counsel and entreaty. May we be studious at every turn to sow the good seed of gospel-truth. Teach us, that we may teach others.

Give us patience, remembering Thy marvellous forbearance. Thy love to us has never wearied. Strengthen us that we may never weary in well-doing, knowing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Thus may we be followers of Thee, our most merciful Father, and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice unto Thee for a sweet-smelling savour. Grant us grace to draw water with joy out of the wells of salvation. Established and refreshed, may we run with patience the race which is set before us, and abound in all those good works in which Thou hast before ordained that we should walk. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, hear us and bless us now and evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD GOD, Thou life of our lives, Thou Spirit of our spirits, Thou strength of our strength, Thou who hast spread Thy shield around our path this day, help us now, when night's shadows fall, to ascend to Thee on the wings of faith and prayer. We cannot thank Thee as we would. But for Jesus' sake accept the praises which our poor lips bring.

We are indeed ashamed of all our doings and misdoings. With morning's light we offered ourselves to Thee. Good resolves were warm within us. We look back on the past hours, and we are conscious of broken vows, lack of true service, backsliding steps, and unfaithful words. Crowds of vain thoughts and worthless works accuse us. Enter not into judgment with Thy faithless servants.

We confess our manifold shortcomings. For the alone merits of Thy beloved Son, cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Cast

our sins and our iniquities behind Thy back.
Bury them in the ocean of Jesus' blood.

O God of hope, all our hope is in Thee.
Enliven our drooping souls with an increase of the most precious gift of hope.
Let not our unsteady hearts be tossed about amid storms and billows of doubt and fear. Give us to grasp tightly the sure and steadfast anchor of unfailing hope.

We rest on Thine exceeding great and precious promises. Teach us that though heaven and earth shall pass away, not one word of Thy lips can ever fail.

We trust in Thy boundless love. Reveal to us the unfathomable source from which it springs, and persuade us that it must flow unchanged, unchangeable for ever, and for ever. We know whom we have believed. Give us unwavering assurance that Thou wilt surely keep that which we have committed unto Thee, against the day of Christ.

When we loved Thee not, Thou didst begin a good work in us. We do love Thee now, but, alas! too faintly. We

have confidence that now Thou wilt carry on Thy work with power. Thou art for us—who, then, can be against us? Our life is hid with Christ in Thee. Thou, who hast given us unto Christ, art greater than all the powers and principalities of darkness. None can pluck us out of Thine almighty hands.

Thus may we stand firm in the fight of faith. May we boldly lift up our heads, invulnerable in the helmet of the hope of salvation. In every conflict may we be more than conquerors, through the sure and certain hope of eternal life, which Thou the God of truth promised before the world began.

Teach us that Thou hast not appointed us to wrath; but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Against all hope in ourselves, we glory in hope that the rock of our salvation is high as the heaven of heavens. We know that tribulations are ordained for our good. When they gather round us, grant that they may work patience, and patience experience.

By experience may that hope be strengthened which maketh not ashamed. Thus may we live in hope, and work in hope, and sow in hope, and pray in hope, and die in hope, and be saved by hope.

Many are the relatives and friends for whom we earnestly implore all Thy blessings. Impart to them everlasting consolation and good hope through grace. We pray for them. And do Thou kindle in their hearts the fervent flame of prayer for us. Together may we wrestle for each other's good.

We commit ourselves—we commit them—we commit all the household of faith—we commit all the family of man to Thy gracious care for this night. May we lie down without one unforgiving or evil passion rankling in our breasts. May we close our eyes in sleep, as if this earth should meet our eyes no more. But if we wake again as pilgrims here, may it be to walk before Thee as Thy redeemed children. Give this—give *more*—for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, have mercy upon us miserable sinners. When the earth was without form and void, Thou didst move upon the face of the waters. Then lovely order smiled, and beauty robed the world. Move, we beseech Thee, in our disordered hearts. Remove the deformities of unruly desire and hateful lusts. Chase away the mists and darkness of unbelief. Brighten our inner man with the pure light of truth. Sow abundantly the seeds of righteousness. Make our souls fragrant as the garden of the Lord. Enrich them with every godly fruit. Beautify them with heavenly grace. Cause them to reflect the rays of the Sun of righteousness.

We humbly put Thee in remembrance of Thy gracious offices. Fulfil them all in us to Thy great glory and our great joy. Be Thou our comforter, our guide,

our light, our sanctification: May we come behind in no grace, being filled with Thy presence.

Especially take of the things of Christ, and show them with enlarged power to our longing souls. May we daily learn more of His love, His grace, His tender compassion, His faithfulness, His beauty. May we delight ourselves in Him with increased delight. Lead us to the cross, and show us in His wounds the hateful character of sin. May we see our sins as the nails which transfixed Him, the cords which bound Him, the sword which pierced Him, the thorns which tare Him, the taunts which stung Him. Help us to read in His cruel death the reality and immensity of His love. Open to us the wondrous volumes of glorious truth in the cry, It is finished.

Increase our faith in the clear knowledge that atonement is for ever achieved, and expiation completed, and our debt fully paid, and satisfaction infinitely made, and *all our guilt washed away*, and all our sins

most righteously forgiven. Show us that our persons are redeemed, our souls saved, hell vanquished, the devil crushed, heaven won, and eternity of glory our rightful home.

Holy Spirit, deepen in us these saving lessons. Write them with Thy finger on the tablets of our hearts. Thus may our profiting advance. May our walk be sin-loathing, sin-fleeing, Christ-loving, God-fearing. Enlighten our consciences to discern all latent evil. Suffer no devices of the devil to beguile or to deceive.

Implant the most tender sensitiveness of conscience. May we shrink from all approach and contact of ungodliness. Store our minds with the texts and doctrines of our blessed Bibles. May we ably wield Thine all-conquering sword. Then temptations shall assault in vain.

Especially we pray Thee to look upon a world lying in the wicked one. He is mighty, but Thou art almighty. Shiver his sceptre. Scatter to the winds his usurped dominion. Speak the resistless word, and he is cast into outer darkness for ever.

It is Thy will, by the foolishness of preaching, to save them which believe. Raise up then a noble army of devoted preachers. Let their hearts be all zeal, and their words all fire. Arm them with the panoply of truth.

Arise, and let God's enemies be scattered. Let them that hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away. As wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

Shine forth, good Lord, in every dark place of this groaning world. Let Thy light shine, and darkness shall no more be dark. Let the prayers of Thy faithful people give Thee no rest, until Thou arise to turn away ungodliness, and to establish the sweet reign of purity and peace. Hasten the time. Do it for Thy tender mercy's sake. And to Thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honour and dominion, praise and power, now, henceforth, and for ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

HOLY Lord God, give us grace to draw near to Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. Grant that our frequent approach and constant welcome may not induce forgetfulness of Thine infinite majesty. Deepen in our hearts due awe of Thine unsearchable greatness. By Thy word all things were made. By Thy power they are sustained. By Thy providence they are ordered.

In Thy sight we are less than nothing. Before Thee we lie low in dust and ashes as rebellious sinners. Give us, then, the meekest spirit of self-abasement. But raise our devotions from the deadening level of formality. May our prayers be ever the warm outpouring of our hearts. Appear before us as a Spirit, requiring those who worship Thee to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Fill us, too, with filial confidence. May we fear with love. May we love with fear.

May the Spirit of grace and supplication ever breathe in our earnest breathings. Strengthen us with lively assurance, that faithful prayer in Jesus' name grasps the arm of Thine omnipotence, achieves wonders, obtains blessings, and never fails. Thus we believe that this our evening opportunity will draw down streams of the most tender mercy. In this full hope, we beseech Thee to forgive us all the trespasses of the past day. We ask Thy pardon; for without it we perish. We ask it with shame; for we are verily without excuse. We fail to watch. We restrain prayer. So iniquities, like the wind, carry us away.

Suffer not Thy just displeasure to arise. Dash us not to pieces like a potter's vessel. Spare us, good Lord, for Thy mercy is great. Spare us, for we are Thine own children by the faith of Jesus. Spare us, for the atoning blood sprinkles us. Spare us, for Jesus' cross is our shelter, our refuge, *and* our plea. Spare us, for we close

this day clinging to the horns of our sheltering altar.

Accept our adoring praises for Thy precious mercies throughout the past hours. Unworthy as we are, we find that goodness and mercy alway prevent and follow us. In these gracious dealings we find earnest that we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Strong in that blessed hope we now lie down to sleep. In night's dark hours do Thou abide with us. We fear no perils if Thou art near.

We ask such renovating rest as Thou shalt think most fitting for us. Above all, we earnestly implore that every power of mind and body, which Thou art pleased to give, may be a thank-offering to Thy praise. We know it to be the misery of miseries, when faculties are misused as the instruments of sin. Save us by Thine indwelling Spirit from such degrading sin.

May our beds ever remind us of our graves. May our uprising foreshadow

the joys of resurrection. We glory in the truth, that Jesus died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

Hear us for ourselves. Hear us for others also. It is our privilege that we may spread all need before Thy throne. How multiform is the need of earth this night! We have knowledge of some suffering. We commend it to Thine alleviating love. There is much unknown to us. But Thine eye sees. Oh! may Thy pity yearn pitifully over all distress!

We feel for those who are now retiring without prayer and praise. They are not pricked to the heart by sense of sin. They dread not the coming wrath. They are unmoved by the marvels of Thy forbearance. May Thy goodness lead them to repentance. May Thy long-suffering be their salvation.

Some perhaps are this night meditating evil things. Hedge up their devious ways with thorns. Defeat their plots. Cause the tears of penitence to flow.

The devil is busy scattering temptations. Turn his foul weapons against himself. May the tempted escape as birds from the fowler's snare. Soothe the sufferings of the sick. Assuage their pains. Give them the comfort of Thy presence : then all sorrow will be joy. Surround Thy dying servants with the glories of heavenly light. May they depart in peace, rejoicing in Thy salvation. Hear us for His sake who died and rose again for us, and ever liveth at Thy right hand —Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, help us duly to prize, and devoutly to use, our privilege of access to Thee. Aid us not only in our united worship, but also in our closet duties. Here we confess common sins, and implore family blessings. There may we diligently try our spirits, and minutely examine our thoughts and lives. Give us faithful boldness carefully to sift our motives, and accurately to ascertain our progress in the life of godliness.

The knowledge of ourselves sinks us in the deepest abasement. How far are we from what we should be! How distant are we from the state of holiness, to which Thy Spirit unresisted would have raised us! But by Thy grace we are what we are. By Thy long-suffering mercy we are here this morning bewailing our miserable shortcomings, and washing in the blood which cleanseth *from* all sin.

We confess, with contrite shame, that our thoughts are quick to wander from Thee, and to intermingle with the polluting pleasures of the world. Times without number we desert our first love. We forsake Thee to whom our hearts are pledged. We drink the poison of the sorcerer's cup.

We have not kept jealous watch over traitorous senses. We have left them unguarded, and almost inviting the admission of trains of unholy lusts. The door of our lips has opened readily to send forth words unfaithful to Thee our God, injurious to our fellow-men, empty of grace, full of folly, dishonouring to our heavenly calling. We turn with downcast eyes from the contemplation of our walk before men. It has not been high, and holy, and harmless, and without rebuke. It has not been in accordance with the gospel principles of uprightness, justice, purity, and truth. Our light, instead of shining, has been dim. Our salt, instead of being purify-

ing, has been unsavoury. Our examples have not allured to Christian sanctity. Our progress has not always been onward, upward, heavenward, straightforward.

Sometimes we have been backsliders. Sometimes we have turned aside into bypaths. Instead of running with patience our appointed race, we have been loiterers, lingerers, taking ease on forbidden ground, looking back to once-loved scenes.

We mourn, too, that Thy blessed Book, which Thou hast given as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, has been neglected and postponed for the frothy childishness of man's conceits. Too often it has been read with want of reverence. We have not duly heeded Thine own voice speaking from Thy holy place. The treasure of treasures has been undervalued. We have trodden holy ground with careless feet.

Pity us, good Lord. Pardon us, O our God. We flee unto Thee, the Lord merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and

plenteous in mercy. Thou wilt not always chide, neither wilt Thou keep Thine anger for ever. We have full faith that through the precious and all atoning blood of Jesus, Thou wilt turn again and have compassion upon us, that Thou wilt subdue our iniquities, and cast all our sins into the depths of everlasting forgetfulness.

We now go forth to the duties of our vocation, zealous to amend our lives according to Thy holy Word. Animate us to quicken our pilgrim-steps, to fight more manfully the fight of faith, and to adorn more faithfully Thy heavenly doctrine.

Replenish with Thy richest blessings all Thy faithful servants. Strengthen them with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. May their godly walk bring glory to Thy name. May this day witness mighty triumphs to the cross of Jesus. May Satan be compelled to release many captives. May many liberated feet tread down his deadly yoke.

Bless our beloved country. We commend to Thine especial favour our Sovereign and all her house. May they be as high in heavenly pre-eminence as they are in earthly rank. May Christian virtue be the lustre of the crown. Bless all who exercise authority. May they rule in Thee and for Thee. Bless our schools. May Thy Spirit ever be the teacher in them. When we lie down in the grave, may our children arise to outshine us in far better service. May they make this land a name and a praise unto Thee throughout the world. We pray, we praise, pleading the love of Jesus, our Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

HEAVENLY Lord God, encouraged by the multitude of Thy tender mercies, emboldened by experience of Thine unfailing goodness, we hasten to Thy throne of grace. When we look back, we see streams upon streams of love overflowing our past path. Out of nothing Thou hast made us living souls. We adore Thee as the God of our creation. When, through our first parents' fall, we were afar from Thee, Thou didst send Thine only begotten Son to bring us back. We thank Thee for redeeming blood. When we were content to live and perish in the wilderness of the world, Thou didst by Thy Spirit translate us from ignorance to knowledge, from darkness to marvellous light, from the abyss of misery to the kingdom of righteousness and peace. Thanks be unto Thee for our high and holy calling!

When we lacked wisdom, Thou hast

supplied it from the fountain of light. When we have erred and gone astray like lost sheep, Thou hast recalled our wandering feet. If we have stood firm in the hour of temptation, it was Thine arm which sustained. If after grievous falls, we have arisen again in penitence and prayer, we owe it to Thy restoring grace.

We thank Thee for the ministry of angels, not less real because unseen—for the precious comfort of Thy holy Word—for the bright cluster of Thy cheering promises—for the ordinances of Thy service—for the teaching of Thy Spirit—for Thy holy sacraments—for the communion of saints—for the dear fellowship of Christian friends—for the recorded annals of holy lives—for examples sweet to allure—for beacons sad to deter.

In all these provisions, we see Thy gracious will that we should grow in grace, and meeten for Thine eternal presence. Thy preventing mercy gives assurance *that it will follow us to the end.* The

gracious beginning is earnest of glorious conclusion. Our heaven-born faith gives promise that it will lead to heavenly sight. Our new birth of incorruptible seed is pledge of never-ending life.

We thus draw nigh unto Thee, believing that Thou wilt draw nigh to us. When we asked not, Thou hast given heaven's best gift, even Thine only begotten Son. We doubt not that with Him, in answer to our cries, Thou wilt also freely give us all things.

In the comfort of these thoughts, in the joy of these hopes, in the strength of this gladness, we bless and adore Thee, O eternal God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Now we intrust ourselves to Thee for the hours of this night. May we prolong our days, if it be Thy gracious will. But if our earthly service is now ended, receive us to a heavenly home. We know that Thine orderings are our best welfare. We would have nothing but in accordance with the counsels of Thy grace. May

our being now and ever be in Thee, and for Thee, and with Thee.

Blessed Jesu, Thou who hast loved us, and given Thyself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour, perfume our humble breathings. Present them worthy in Thy prevailing worthiness.

Heavenly Father, Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Is it not well-pleasing to Thee, that we should name others at Thy throne? Hear us then in behalf of all who are now draining the cup of sorrow. Many widows now feel their loneliness. So fill their hearts that no aching void may crave. May they feel that, with Thee for their God, they have more than all. Orphan children are without the parental shield. Under the shadow of Thy wings may they find safety. Be Thou their portion for time and for eternity.

Visit this night the many hospitals in which pain and disease keep watch. Wipe weeping eyes. Assuage the sufferings of

afflicted bodies. Reveal to the anguish-stricken the blessed Jesus, who hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Give them, without one repining thought, to leave themselves in Thy blessed and blessing hands.

Be with those who are travelling by land and by water. Teach them that there is no peril when Thou art near, and that there is no place which Thy presence fills not.

Especially be gracious to the beloved friends who are one with us in kindred and affection. May grace cement all our hearts to Thee, and in Thee to each other. May we be one now and one for ever. Make us fellow-helpers to each other's faith, and partners of each other's holy joys. Pardon all our sins. And save us with Thine everlasting salvation, according to Thy covenant of grace in Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

HOLY Father, merciful and gracious, give us Thy holy Spirit to help our infirmities in prayer. The worthiness of Thy Son is our only plea. But that plea is instant access to Thine heart.

Jesu, be Thou the fragrance of our morning sacrifice. Manifest Thyself unto us in this service. Bring us into the sanctuary of Thine immediate presence. May Thy banner over us be love. Mightily enlarge our faith, that we may fully know the glories of Thy grace, and all the wonders of Thy redeeming work.

We know that, while we run the way of Thy commandments, Thy doctrines will become more clear. Strengthen us, then, to obey that we may know, and to know that we may obey. May light prevent, attend, and follow us. May every ray which shines upon us be reflected by us.

We thank Thee for all the ordinances by which Thou dost instruct and feed

Thy people. Make them spirit and life unto our souls. We have lost much by sad neglect. Let no provocations induce Thee to shut up Thy loving-kindness in displeasure. If Thou art angry, the fruitful pastures of Thine ordained means will become a wilderness and drought. If Thou cease to smile, the heavens will withhold their fructifying dew, and no more drop down their fatness.

Help us to give due heed to Thy preached Word, lest faithful pastors be removed, and Thy Spirit refuse to teach us.

Excite us to use duly Thy throne of grace both publicly and in private. May prayer never become in us formality. May not the door remain closed because we feebly knock. Especially replenish us with overflowing grace when we receive the memorials of Thy broken body and Thine outpoured blood. Solemnise and gladden us. Humble us in reverential awe. Exalt us in adoring faith. Reveal Thyself to us as tasting the accursed

death in our stead. Open our eyes to behold Thee hanging for us on the tree. May we see our death in Thy death, and our reconciliation through Thy blood. Invigorate and comfort our souls by the spiritual repast. May they be strengthened even as our bodies receive strength from bread and wine. Increase our holy trust, that they who thus communicate in remembrance of Thy dying love shall never be the prey of Satan, the devouring lion.

Grant that we may never unduly magnify to our injury external means. Keep us from all superstition in the use of mystic rites. May outward signs ever unveil Thee. May they never obscure Thee. May we worship and adore Thee in the simplicity of truth, and sincerity of faith. Clothe us with the garments of purity and true holiness. So may we be meet guests at the heavenly board. Let love be our robe, and deep humility our becoming clothing. Thus nourish us to life eternal.

Pity those who have no part or lot in our chiefest joys. Yet there is room. May Thy Spirit call. And may he never cease to work, until penitence and faith subdue the hearts now closed to Thee.

Go with us, holy Father, to the duties of this day. Whatever be our station or our work, may we rejoice to be where Thou hast placed us, and to do what Thou art pleased to command. We know that the period of our being, our assigned employ, the companions who are by our side, the persons with whom we have converse, are all pre-arranged in accordance with Thy counsels. We believe that Thou dost order all our matters so as to enable us most to advance the interests of Thy kingdom and our souls. Enable us humbly to walk in Thy paths, and never to seek our own honour, but Thine only.

We bewail that we have been such unfaithful and unprofitable servants. We plead the precious blood for pardon of all that is past. We trust in Christ's

glorious righteousness as the covering of all our shortcomings. We pray for the perpetual aid of Thy Spirit, that no future moment may be misspent.

For Thy tender love's sake grant that at last we may each receive the welcome, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. We bless Thee that we may thus boldly supplicate. We bless Thee for Thy promises to answer. We bless Thee that Thou art far more willing to hear than we to pray. Be it unto us according to Thy might to save. And to Thee be all the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

GOD the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon us miserable sinners. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ, O Lord God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. By Thine agony and bloody sweat, by Thy cross and passion, by Thy precious death and burial, by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon us.

Pardon all the sins of this day and of this week, all the sins of all the hours of our lives ; our sins of early, mature, and advanced years ; our sins of omission and commission ; our sins against

light and knowledge, and the whispers of conscience and restraints of Thy Holy Spirit. Good Lord hear and save us.

Pardon our sins in private and in the family, and in the busy haunts of men ; our sins of lip and life and walk ; our sins in the study of Thy blessed Word and in the neglect of it ; our sins in prayer irreverently offered and coldly withheld. Good Lord hear and save us.

Pardon our sins against our God, our neighbour, and ourselves ; our sins in time misspent ; our sins in yielding to the tempter's wiles, in opening our hearts to his admission, in being unwatchful when we knew him to be nigh. Good Lord, hear and save us.

Pardon our sins in vexing Thy Holy Spirit, in quenching the heavenly sparks of His grace, in resisting His loving motions ; our sins of hardness of heart, of unbelief, of presumption, and of pride ; our sins of unfaithfulness to the souls of men, of want of bold decision in the *cause* of Christ, and deficiency of out-

spoken zeal for His glory. Good Lord deliver, hear, and save us.

Pardon our sins of deception, injustice, untruthfulness in our dealings with others; our sins of bringing dishonour on the great name by which we are called; our sins of substance unduly hoarded, improvidently squandered, and not consecrated to the glory of the great Giver; our sins of covetousness, which is idolatry in Thy sight; our sins of impurity in thought and word; our sins of light and trifling reading; our sins in study and in recreation; our sins of morose and peevish and angry tempers; our sins against the pure law of universal love. Pardon all our sins, known and unknown, felt and unfelt, confessed or not confessed, remembered or forgotten. Good Lord hear and save us.

As a family on bended knees, with earnest cry, in full faith of Thine atoning blood, we implore these mercies. We call upon Thee by Thy name Jesus, which tells us that Thy property

is to save ; by Thy love without beginning and without end ; by Thine assurance that salvation's work is finished ; by Thy gracious call to the weary and heavy-laden ; by Thy blessed promise that Thou wilt in no wise cast out ; by all Thou art, by all that Thou hast done for us, by all that Thou art doing, by all the glory yet to be revealed : we beseech Thee to pardon, bless, and save us.

But limit not Thy mercy unto us. In gracious condescension to our united supplication, may blessings without measure flow down upon earth's sons. Hear us for our Sovereign the Queen, for all who sit on thrones, for all their families, for all their subjects. Give needful grace, that they who rule may rule for Thee, and they who obey may obey in Thee.

Hear us for all pastors of Thy Church. Work in them, work by them, that Thy gospel may be known, Thy name glorified, Thy people gathered in, and edified and saved.

Especially go forth with the mission-

aries who seek Thine ancient people scattered throughout the world. Hasten the day of Israel's return and the Gentiles' fulness. Pity the outcasts of heathen lands. Dispel all darkness by the bright rising of Thy gospel light.

Be with all who are anywise afflicted in mind, body, or estate. May the dying depart in peace, in full comfort of Thy full salvation. May the living live unto Thee, alway ready to depart. Retire with us now to our private devotions. May we lie down in perfect peace, clasping the redeeming cross, and rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. And all glory be to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the God of our salvation, now and ever. Amen.

ESPECIAL DAYS.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

MORNING.

WE will extol Thee, O God, our King.
We will bless Thy name for ever and
ever. But especially on this hallowed
morn, we desire to pour forth floods of
adoring praise. O our souls, bless the
Lord. O every faculty within us, mag-
nify His boundless love.

We bring our thanks for the gift of
gifts. Thine only begotten Son is born
into this world. He is made bone of our
bones, flesh of our flesh. The least gift
from heaven to guilty earth exceeds all
praise. What shall we render unto Thee
for sending Thine own dear Son to take
upon Him our nature, and verily to be

one of the family of man! Utterance cannot express due gratitude. But accept, we beseech Thee, the breathings of thy Spirit in our hearts. Mark how fervently we love Thee, and how we strive to testify thanksgiving.

Wonder of wonders! The Son of God comes down from heaven, that to heaven we poor sinners may be raised. Our Lord Jesus Christ takes the manhood into God, that we may become partakers of the divine nature. He is born one with us, that we may be one with Him for ever.

Herein is love, when we could not rise to Him, He flies down on the wings of grace to raise us to Himself. Herein is power, that when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart, God has joined them in indissoluble oneness. He has united infinite discrepancies in one Christ.

Herein is God's wisdom in the highest, that when we were utterly undone by sin, without will to return, without

intellect to devise recovery, Jesus appears on earth, able as God to save us to the uttermost, and qualified as man to die our death, to shed satisfying blood in our stead, and to work out perfect righteousness in our behalf.

Father, God most merciful, help us to bless Thee more. In spirit we take our station by the watching shepherds. So we strive to expand our contracted hearts. We hear, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. We hear, we believe, we rejoice, we give thanks, we adore. We bid all fears to flee away. We call upon our consciences to bathe in an ocean of repose. We look up with filial confidence. We see Thee our reconciled Father. Separation has ceased. We draw nigh, because Thou hast thus drawn nigh to us. We love Thee, because we have this proof *that* Thou hast so loved us.

A Redeemer is come. We put all our trust in Him. We believe that we are fully and for ever redeemed from sin, and all sin's penalties and woes. Thou hast raised up an horn of salvation for us. We see its all-sufficient might. We embrace it with undoubting faith. We realise that Thou hast saved us. Like Simeon we clasp the new-born Saviour to our hearts. We exult that He is ours, and we are His. We are one with Him. Therefore Thou art our Father because His Father, and His God because our God.

Father, again we say, help us to bless Thee for all the benefits of this wondrous birth.

Give us grace, that our lives may praise Thee better than our lips. Keep our thanksgiving free from every blot. Thou hast given so much for us, that heaven itself could give no more. Here we present ourselves to Thine undivided service. Accept us. Preserve us. Rule within us. May Thy dear Son indeed be born

within us. May His continual indwelling sanctify every movement of our minds.

May the good tidings of this day have free course and be glorified throughout earth's length and breadth. Wherever man lives, may he rejoice in the Child born, the Son given.

Hasten the time when He who as at this time came to visit us in great humility, shall come again in His glorious majesty with all His saints.

Holy Father, we offer our prayers and praises in the way which Thou hast ordained—Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

EVENING.

BLESSED Jesus, we have this day been especially rejoicing in Thy coming to seek us and to save us, when we were lost. Once more, as a family, we assemble to delight ourselves in Thee. Our gratitude indeed has no bounds. But shackled in these bodies of sin, we cannot thank Thee as we would. But Thou knowest whereof we are made. Thou art touched with a feeling of our infirmities. Regard us therefore in the pitifulness of Thy tender mercies. Graciously accept our feeble praise. When Thou shalt be pleased to call us to our heavenly home, Thou shalt receive more fitting adoration.

We have in happy faith gazed on Thee as a babe in Bethlehem. We have seen the fulfilment of ancient prophecies, and the coming of the Desire of

all nations. As we gaze, teach us more and more of the deep meaning of this wondrous advent. May we read in it the breadth and length, the depth and height of Thine eternal love. When we see this incomprehensible self-emptying, this concealment of Deity in the rags of humanity, this profound humiliation, this Thy readiness to live for a season a man among men, may we clasp to our very souls the glad assurance that we are indeed dear to Thee—dear even to the infinity of love. Thou stooped to put on our lowly flesh, not only because Thou seekest Thy heavenly Father's glory, but because our names are engraven on Thy heart. Help us by Thy Spirit to love Thee, according to the boundlessness of Thy love toward us.

Gloriously accomplish, we beseech Thee, all the wondrous purposes of Thy coming. O Thou Seed of the woman, crush the serpent's head. Show that Thou art his mighty conqueror. Suffer him no longer to receive wrongful allegiance, as the god

of this world. Destroy his usurped dominion. Shiver the sceptre of the cruel tyrant. Thou art manifested to destroy his works. Hasten the time, when in Thee and in Thy name, we too shall bruise him under our feet.

Thou art come to achieve redemption. May we glory in Thee as procuring ransom and deliverance to the full. Thou art born one of our family. Thus Thou art our proxy, our surety, our substitute. Open widely the eyes of our faith, that we may see all our merited curse expended on Thine unoffending head, and the sword of justice buried in Thy heart. Thou hast lived a man on earth to fulfil every demand of the most holy law, and to work out in our nature perfect righteousness. Enable us to see the glories of that robe. May we put it on by the hand of faith. May we rejoice that we are comely in this Thy precious comeliness, and beauteous in this Thy matchless beauty.

Thou visitest earth to be the way, the

truth, and the life. Reveal to us Thy paths. Ever guide our feet to walk the heavenward walk. Proclaim to us Thy truth. May it sanctify us wholly, and make us free from ignorance and sin. Give to us more abundantly the life of grace, until it issue in the life of glory.

By Thy birth Thou art the firstborn among many brethren. Thou art not ashamed to call us brethren. Do then, as Thou hast said, declare Thy name unto Thy brethren. Enable us to realise all the joys of this true relationship. May we hold converse with Thee in all brotherly confidence. While we reverently worship Thee as the mighty God, may we cling to Thee as our near kinsman.

Thou dost come down on the wings of love, that, as the heavenly Bridegroom, Thou mayest betroth Thy people unto Thyself for ever. Show us the glories of this mysterious union. Reveal to us that Thou hatest putting away, and that Thou wilt never leave us nor forsake us.

Thus may we learn in Thy manger, that the last Adam more than restores the inheritance which we lost, when the first Adam fell. And may we lie down this night singing in our hearts with all grateful rapture, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men. Amen and amen.

LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.

EVENING.

WE kneel together, O great God, for the last time in the year, which has now reached its close. May our last united cry be our best—the most glowing in fervour—the most abased in humility—the most fragrant in the reconciling blood—the most hallowed by the interceding Spirit.

We look to ourselves: and we turn to Thee. Our earthly days roll rapidly away. We never continue in one stay. Our moments vanish while we grasp them. But Thou changest not. Time is not time to Thee. From everlasting to everlasting Thy name is, I am that I am. Glorious Jehovah, we are astounded at Thine unspeakable greatness. We marvel more at Thy surpassing goodness. Trusting in Thy superabounding grace, we thus draw near.

It became us at the end of each day

to bring the tribute of thanksgiving for our daily mercies. What shall we render for all the mercies of all the days of the year now fled? Oh that we could gather all into one mass, and meet them with deserving praise! But we cannot count the ocean's sands. How, then, can we tell Thy mercies, which in number are not fewer! Our thanks are worthless for the least of all Thy favours. What are they when weighed against the wondrous whole! We know but a part, but that part surpasses praise. But we ardently desire that the concluding year should bear witness that we bring adorations with overflowing hearts.

For all Thy personal mercies—for the measure of health with which we have been favoured—for the preservation of our frames from fatal sickness and from evil accident—for the comforts of a sheltering roof—for the sufficiency of food and raiment—for the continuance of mental and bodily power: Good Lord accept the praises of our inmost souls.

For Thy goodness to us as a family—for mutual support and help—for the sweet delights of domestic harmony and peace—for seats now filled which might have been a vacant blank: Good Lord accept the praises of our inmost souls.

For Thy distinguishing favours to us as a nation—for the peace which smiles upon our borders—for the plenty of our fields—for the absence of wasting sickness and destroying plagues—for the protection of right laws—for the Bible open to our use—for the continued light and liberty of our glorious Reformation: good Lord accept the praises of our inmost souls. Enriched with all these blessings, and with countless more, we close this year. We know our privileges. We feel them. We bless Thy holy name.

But other thoughts oppress us. We blush to lift up our eyes unto Thee, Thou God of all grace and love. Shame and confusion of face humble us to the very dust. Whereinsoever Thou hast been boundless in mercy, we have been abun-

dant in sin. We cannot measure our ingratitude. We cannot estimate our vileness. We cannot in thought reach to the extent of our transgressions throughout this traversed year.

Each day has added to our guilt. Each scene has witnessed our straying feet and our offending tongues. What is there in heaven or in earth, above, around, without, within, which condemns us not? The sun condemns us, which has seen our misdeeds; the darkness, too, which hides nothing from Thee. The cruel accuser justly accuses. How often have Thy good angels been provoked to leave us! Thy righteous law, Thy holy Word, our sin-soiled consciences, our public and our private hours, our neighbours and ourselves, write dark things against us. We make no denial. We frame no excuse. We confess, Father, we have sinned throughout this year against heaven and before Thee, and are no more worthy to be called Thy sons.

But still we live. We live to fly as con-

trite penitents to Thine extended arms. We know that Thou wilt not cast us off; for Jesus brings us near. Thou wilt not condemn us; for Thy dear Son died in our place. Thou wilt not mark the mountains upon mountains of our sins; for the Saviour has removed them all. His precious blood has washed out every crimson dye. His beauteous righteousness covers all our deformities.

O God, our God, we bid farewell, then, to this year, clinging to His cross, sheltered by His side, hidden in His wounds, cleansed in His blood, covered by His spotless robe, beautified in His salvation.

Thus we conclude our last united prayer, blessing Thee for Jesus Christ. All honour, and glory, and might, and majesty, and dominion, be unto Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God of our salvation, now, henceforth, and ever. Amen.

FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

MORNING.

WE are permitted to see the dawn of another year. Gracious Lord God, we assemble to commence it with Thee. Length of days is no profit to us, except they are passed in Thy presence, in Thy service, to Thy glory. Therefore as a family we bend the knee, and implore, for Christ's sake, that Thy grace may prevent and follow us, may guide and sustain us, may sanctify and aid us, through every hour which Thy goodness may vouchsafe to us.

Grant that we may not be for one moment apart from Thee. May we set Thee always before us. Be Thou ever on our right hand, so shall we not be moved. Send Thy Holy Spirit to supply our every thought, to speak in our every word, to direct our every step, to act in our every act, to prosper our

every work, and to build us up in our most holy faith. May we live each day with eternity extended before our eyes, viewing all things in its mirror, and ever listening for the chariot-wheels of Thy returning Son, for the voice of the archangel and the trump of God.

Teach us ever to bear in mind that we are not our own. The precious blood of Jesus has redeemed us as Thy peculiar possession. Thy Holy Spirit has called us to Thy free yoke. We have been made willing in the day of Thy power. Holy vows bind us to Thy service. Here again we renew our vows. Here again we consecrate ourselves to Thee. Here again we present our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, on Christ our altar.

We profess that it is our one desire to acquaint ourselves with Thee, to show forth Thy praise, to testify our love, to advance Thy kingdom. Fervent gratitude constrains us. Standing on the rock of salvation, arrayed in the robes

of righteousness, our hearts throb to testify that we are a people who delight to honour Thee.

Open our eyes to see our appointed work, and with all steadfastness of resolve to do it. May we never be without some definite plan to promote the good of others, and the glory of Thy name. Thus may we launch our barks on the unknown waters of this year, with Christ seated at the helm. And may Thy Spirit fill the sails with gales which waft towards heaven.

Many are now entering on their last year on earth. It may be so with some or all of us. May we always be ready with our loins tightly girt, and our lamps brightly burning. If our descending Lord shall knock, may we open unto Him immediately. If death shall come, may we have nothing then to do but joyfully to die.

Out of the fulness of our hearts we would this morning make large intercessions. Where Thy Spirit dwells there is

vast liberty of soul. We pray, then, for all the tribes of man scattered throughout the world. May this be a year of superabounding blessing to them. Wherever Thy sun shall shine, may the Sun of righteousness arise with healing on His wings. Wherever Thy dew shall fall, may showers of grace descend. Distribute far and wide holy missionaries to tell of Jesus, and salvation through His cross. May the bright tidings dispel the night of sin. May Satan flee before the all-conquering Gospel.

Grant that this year may surpass all others in blessings to our own beloved land. We pray for all sorts and conditions in our midst. We remember with earnest cry Thy servant whom Thou hast raised to be our sovereign. May Thy grace ever sanctify her. May Thy comforts ever cheer her. May Thy wisdom ever teach her. May Thy right hand ever uphold her. Be Thou this year the Counsellor in all the councils of the nation.

Preside as the Judge in all our courts. Maintain peace and prosperity and happy contentment among all classes. May the whole fabric of society be cemented by one feeling of harmony. May hearts yearn for mutual and unbounded good.

May wisdom and knowledge be the stability of our times; and the fear of the Lord our treasure. May righteousness exalt our land, and may all people be constrained to testify that the Lord of Hosts is with us of a truth, and that His glory is great in our midst.

Multiply the triumphs of thy holy Word this year. May multitudes yield to its converting and sanctifying power. Be with Thy ministering servants in every sermon and in every visit. Be Thou the teacher in our schools, the healer in our hospitals, and our universal benefactor.

Thus we commend ourselves and all our matters, and all the world and all its interests, to Thy gracious care. Surely Thou who hast not spared Thine own

Son, but hast freely given Him up for us all, wilt with Him also freely give us all things for time and for eternity. Grant this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY.

MORNING.

HEAVENLY Father, deepen in us this day contrition for our vileness, as miserable sinners, in Thy sight. We cloak not our wretchedness. Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel, and our feet are reluctant to amend our ways. We bring these hearts unto Thee. Break them by Thy Spirit, and then bind them up by Thy grace. Wound them to the quick, and then pour in the Gospel-balm.

Such is the blindness of our fallen nature, that we cannot see sin's deformity, except as Thou art pleased to unmask it. Such is our deadness that we cannot hate it, except as Thou shalt graciously implant abhorrence. Such is our infirmity, that we cannot flee it, except as Thy strength enables. Conscious of all inability, we come to Thee for light, for help, for strength, for blessing.

We know that sin is the transgression of Thy righteous law, and that the commandment is spiritual and exceeding broad. Who can tell then how oft he offendeth? But sins without number stare us in the face. They are piled as mountain upon mountain. Their height reaches unto the clouds.

But their full extent is open only to Thine omniscient eye. The burden of our known transgressions weighs us to the dust. But the burden is light, compared to the mass which the scales of Thy justice hold. We see but little, because our light is partial and our sight is dim. How must we appear, as seen of Thee, before whom the very heavens are not clean! Thou chargest thine angels with folly. What must be Thine estimate of our polluted souls! Humbled for what we see and feel; fearful for what is known only unto Thee; we meekly cry, Pardon us all that is past.

We bewail too the mighty aggravations of our felt guilt. How good beyond

all thought hast Thou been to us ! How vile are our ungrateful returns ! All the faculties, so mercifully bestowed upon us, have been used as weapons of revolt against the gracious Giver. As rebels, we have misused the strength which Thou hast supplied, and the weapons which Thou hast prepared. How often have we yielded our members instruments of iniquity unto iniquity. Our abilities of mind and body have rendered traitorous service to the foul adversary of Thy kingdom. Wilful ingratitude darkens our whole lives. We sink low in shame. We cry, God be merciful to us miserable offenders.

We bewail our insensate folly. We know that the way of transgressors is hard—that evil paths are surely wretched paths—that departure from Thee, the source of all joy and peace, is downfall into all distress—still how often without resistance have we floated down the stream of evil ! We confess our madness. Oh ! pity us, pardon us, we pray Thee.

We see the purity and beauty of Thy perfect law—the happiness of those in whose hearts it reigns—the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls—yet we daily violate its precepts, and tread them beneath contemptuous feet.

Thy loving Spirit strives within us. He warns us in the pages of thy sacred Word. He speaks to us in startling providences. He allures us by His secret whispers. How often do we choose rather the devices and desires of our own hearts! How often do we impiously resist, and vex, and grieve Him! How often do we provoke Him to abandon us for ever! Conscience, too, has loudly rebuked, and in our recklessness we have stifled its faithful dictates.

For all these sins we mourn before Thee, most merciful and longsuffering Father. We smite upon our breasts, as utterly unworthy of the least of Thy mighty and unfathomable mercies. Hear now our cry, and work in us by the omnipotence of Thy Holy Spirit, more

profound and abiding repentance. Give us more and more of that godly grief which ever fears and trembles, and yet ever trusts and loves—which is ever watchful and prayerful, and yet is ever confident and hopeful. May the remembrance of the sad past quicken us to walk in entire newness of life. Grant that through the tears of penitence we may see more clearly the brightness and the glories of the saving Cross.

Oh! blessed Jesu, we flee to Thee. We cling to Thee. Our countless iniquities condemn us, but Thou wilt wash them all away. Our tears of penitence cannot remove one blot. But Thy blood has all cleansing merit. Our prayers can earn no pardon. But Thy mercy says, Your sins are all forgiven. The more we loathe ourselves, the more we love Thee. Our vile demerits commend Thy glorious worth. Lost in ourselves, we live in Thee. Trusting in Thee, we shall never be confounded. Hear us: bless us: for Thy love's sake. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY.

EVENING.

BLESSED Jesus, we kneel before Thy cross, humbly praying that, through Thy Spirit, power may come forth from it to show us more deeply the heinousness of sin. We see Thee laden with our iniquities. What must iniquity be, if there can be no pardon except Thou shalt thus expire! We see the outgoing of the severity of divine wrath. What must that evil be which thus excites it! In that crown of thorns, in those pierced hands and feet, in those bleeding wounds, in that bruised frame, in that dying cry, we are taught the enormity of our guilt. We know Thy blood to be the blood of God. Its worth is infinite. Its precious value exceeds all thought. Infinite therefore must be the evil for which it is the only ransom. Exceeding all thought must be the guilt which requires such price.

In Thy death we see the tremendous desert of our offences. We see it, and we cast ourselves in the lowliest humility before Thee. Sin is the malady which so sorely afflicts us. It cleaves to us as our very skin. It is born in our birth. It lives in our lives. It adheres to us when we lie down to die. It follows us as our very shadow. It intermingles in our every thought. When we go forth, it is by our side. When we come in, it still accompanies. We are tied and bound by its enslaving chain. At Thy cross we are taught how terrible is this evil. We see how unutterable is the wrath which it so righteously awakens. Laden with it we especially come at this time to Thee for refuge.

Looking unto Thee, and striving to estimate more and more the riches of redeeming grace, we loathe and abhor ourselves as so sin-soiled and so polluted. We marvel that the sun consents to give us light—the air to supply breath—the earth to bear our tread—the fruits to

nourish us—Thy creatures to subserve our use. Through us the whole creation groans and travails. Justly might all things, animate and inanimate, rise in abhorrence of us.

How much more do we marvel that Thy compassions yearned over us—that Thy love hastened to our rescue—that Thy grace presented Thine own person to endure all our curse—that Thou wast willing to stand before Thy Father as the representative of all our guilt. We bless Thee, while we hide our heads in deepest shame.

Gracious Saviour, may the sight of Thine unutterable sufferings excite in us due detestation of this monster. Oh, forbid it, that we should ever dally with the foe which brought Thee to such anguish. Forbid it, that we should fondle in our breasts the viper which stung Thee to the quick. Forbid it that we should lightly regard that deadly power which kindled the flames from which nothing but Thy dying love could snatch. May

we hate it with unmitigable hate. May we abhor it with abhorrence only exceeded by the infinite love with which we desire infinitely to love our Saviour.

But while we pray that henceforth we may increasingly abominate all evil, we know that without Thy grace our affections will look treacherously back. They have deceived us. They have betrayed us. Bind them now closely to Thyself. Suffer them no more to stray.

Thou art our only Redeemer. Thou too by Thy Spirit art our only help. Repentance, and strength, and pardon are the free gifts of Thy grace. We adore Thee that Thou art exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Thy people and forgiveness of sins. Fill us, we pray Thee, with godly sorrow—even that sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Try us, and know our thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in us.

Lead us in the way everlasting. From the depths of our humiliation we cry aloud to the heights of Thy mercy. We call upon Thee in the full assurance of faith. Having died to deliver us from the punishment of our sins, we trust Thee by Thy life to deliver us from their power.

Have mercy on all near and dear to us—on all who intercede for us—on all who ask our intercession. Grant that we may meekly walk together in the lowest vale of humiliation because we are sinners. Grant that we may rejoice together in Thee as all our hope and all our desire. Grant that we may journey together in much tenderness of conscience, because so prone to evil. Grant that at last we may triumph gloriously as heirs of Thy great salvation. Hear us, we earnestly beseech Thee. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

MORNING.

HOLY Father, we worship Thee in Thy great name of Love. The heavens, the earth, and all that are therein, proclaim Thy wondrous goodness. But it shines forth in surpassing lustre at Calvary's stupendous scene. We desire to adore Thee. Enlarge our hearts. Pour warmth into our affections. Open our lips. Supply words. And in Thy mercy condescend to hear the praises which we devoutly utter.

At the cross we see Thy heavenly grace removing from us the tremendous load of our iniquities, and heaping them all on Thy beloved Son. We see Him standing as a transgressor in our place. We see Him, who knew no sin, made sin for us. We see Him, the all-holy, accounted as a curse. What shall we say unto Thee, O Thou God of all grace?

We can only fall low and cry : We bless Thee ; we adore.

We see Thy justice leading Him as a spotless lamb to the slaughter, and rigorously demanding the full payment of all our debt. The avenging sword enters into his very heart. The stream of expiating blood flows. Full recompense is counted out. Exceeding satisfaction is made. Justice can ask no more. Charges against us are all obliterated. The book of account is cancelled. If sins be searched for, they cannot now be found. For the gift of Thy Son as our proxy—for the death of Thy Son as our ransom—we bless Thee ; we adore.

We hear the thunder of Thine outraged law. We behold the gathering of the unsparing storm. But at Calvary it all breaks on the head of Him who is accounted the disobedient one for us. The curse descends in all its horrors. He absorbs the whole. We gaze—the darkness passes away. All heaven's smiles

beam brightly over us. O our God, we bless Thee and adore.

We behold, and He is devoted to all anguish, that we may be inheritors of all joy. He is cast off, that we may be brought nigh. He is treated as an enemy, that we may be welcomed as friends. He is deserted, that we may be received to everlasting favour. He is surrendered to hell's worst, that we may attain heaven's best. He is stripped, that we may be clothed. He is wounded, that we may be healed. He thirsts, that we may drink of the water of life. He is in darkness, that we may rejoice in the glories of eternal day. He weeps, that all tears may be for ever wiped from our eyes. He groans, that we may sing an endless song. He endures all pain, that we may rejoice in unfading health. He bears a crown of thorns, that we may receive a crown of glory. He bows His head, that we may lift up our heads in heaven. He bears all reproach, that we may receive all welcome. He is tormented

that we may be comforted. He is made all shame, that we may inherit all glory. His eyes are dark in death, that our eyes may gaze on unclouded brightness. He dies, that we may escape the second death, and live for evermore. O gracious Father, thus Thou sparest not Thine only begotten Son, that Thou mayest spare us. All this transfer Thy love designed and hath achieved. We bless Thee ; we adore.

Heavenly Father, enable us to show forth Thy praise, not only by the fruit of our lips, but also in the fruit of our lives. Shall we see all our enemies crushed—Satan baffled, defeated, and destroyed—all our sins cast behind Thy back—all buried in the ocean of reconciling blood—hell's gates closed—heaven's portals widely thrown open, and not exult in joy unspeakable and full of glory? Oh that every breath could be ecstatic praise, and every step be buoyant in delight !

Help us to go on our way rejoicing. Infinite attributes were outraged, but in-

finite atonement is made. Infinite punishment was due, infinite punishment has been endured. Our disease was incurable by our own resources, but all is healed in the saving wounds.

We pray that the glad tidings of this glorious and finished work may be this day loudly and universally proclaimed. Jesus declares that, being lifted up, He will draw all men unto Himself. He has been lifted up on the cross, a spectacle to angels and to men. May He be lifted up in every pulpit. May multitudes flock to Him as doves to their windows. May preachers know nothing among their flocks save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. May their message be fragrant in His blood.

Go forth, O conquering Spirit, and show that the cross is mighty to subdue and comfort. Prove that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Glory be to Thy great love, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

EVENING.

O JESU, O Thou whom our souls love, give ear, we pray Thee, to our evening-worship. The very stones would cry out if we should fail to love Thee, who hast so loved us. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. But Thou hast laid down Thy life for us, when we were enemies, estranged by nature, and hateful by wicked works.

We bless Thee for Thy cross. Love shines brightly inscribed above it. We clasp the record to our souls. And knowing that Thou art the same yesterday and to-day and for ever, we believe that Thou lovest us now, and wilt love us to the end.

Thus we come and present our hearts as a willing thank-offering. Accept them, we beseech Thee. Come in and occupy

them wholly. Cast out every opposing feeling. Reign supreme. Let no rival passion interpose. Live in all our affections. Move in their every pulse.

We have this day been standing in spirit beside Thy cross. Now let our concluding worship as a family give united adoration. The sight constrains us to the deepest humility. Our vile iniquity is the cause of this Thy shame. We cannot fathom the sins which plunged Thee into such depths of unutterable woe. We cannot estimate the burden which thus crushed Thee. We cannot deny that the offences which stain us are evils of infinite malignity, since nothing but Thy blood, O Thou who art Jehovah's fellow, could wash away their guilty stains. As transgressors we abhor ourselves before Thee.

While thus we sink into lowliest abasement, we hear Thy reviving cry, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. The voice is heard in heaven. Thee the Father always hears. The

prayer is accepted. Thou canst not plead in vain. Forgiveness is sealed. Forgiveness is ours. Our sins and our iniquities will be remembered no more. The voice of the blood outcries the voice of our condemning offences. We rejoice in the comfort that we may this night lie down in peace, nothing doubting that through Thy cross eternal pardon is our portion.

Blessed Saviour, continue, we beseech Thee, this Thy cry in our behalf. Now at the right hand of the Majesty on high, plead Thine atoning sacrifice. While we live we go astray. Each moment testifies that when we would do good, evil is present with us. Ever extend for us Thy wounded hands. Ever renew the prevailing intercession, Father, forgive them.

Before we part this night, we would again drink in the wondrous tidings, It is finished. Increase our faith to grasp the full extent of the mighty word. May we live with it ever echoing in our ears. May we take it as the strong staff to stay

our pilgrim steps. May the precious cordial ever cheer our hearts. May it give us boldness in every hour of trial and temptation. May it drive all desponding fears away.

It is finished. What more can we desire? It is finished. Of what, then, shall we be afraid? Salvation is finished to the uttermost. We adore Thee, O blessed Jesu. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but Thy glorious work for ever stands immovable. Thy voice is the truth of God. Thy voice declares it.

We mourn the wretchedness of our best services. They are indeed most vile. But no worth of ours is needed to complete what Thou hast infinitely completed. If all holiness were ours, it could bring no addition to Thy perfect achievement. Neither can our many sins impair it. Shall we not adore Thee, O Thou all-glorious Saviour! We do adore Thee from our inmost souls.

But though our doings can add nothing to the finished fabric of Thy salvation,

we burn with desire by our lives to testify our gratitude. Our hearts throb to show forth Thy praise, and to advance Thy glory. But we can do nothing without Thy Spirit. Thou must work in us to will and to do. We pray Thee to put forth Thy mighty power to help us. Sanctify us wholly, body, soul, and spirit. Oh! that we might be holy, harmless, undefiled. Oh! that we might walk in purity and love. May we live as the purchased of Thy blood—the bride whom Thou hast espoused—the partners of Thy throne.

May we be transformed into Thine image. As we gaze on Thee, may we be changed into Thy likeness from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of our Lord. Surely Thou who hast loved us unto death, wilt not deny these earnest petitions of our lips! Jesu, hear, answer, bless. And all glory be to Thee, now and ever. Amen.

EASTER DAY.

MORNING.

HEAVENLY Father, we come together this morning to uplift the voice of thanksgiving. We rejoice before Thee in the strength of our salvation. Great was the joy of Israel's sons when they saw the Egyptians dead on the sea-shore. Far greater is the joy of our souls when we see all our foes crushed in the dust.

O Thou God of peace, Thou hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Our hearts would sing aloud Thy praise. Glory be to Thee for evermore !

Jesus strides forth from the tomb, conqueror of death and hell and all opposing might. He bursts the bands. He tramples down all powers of darkness. He shows Himself alive by many infallible

proofs. We thank Thee. Glory be to Thee, O God most high !

Open our eyes by Thy Holy Spirit to see the glories of this grand achievement. May we read in it the full triumph of Thy redeemed. May we drink deeply of the streams of its comfort. May we clothe ourselves in the garments of completed salvation.

Jesus liveth, who was dead. He is alive for evermore. The gracious surety, who was apprehended for the payment of our debt, comes forth from the prison-house of the grave free and discharged. Show us herein the proof that His vicarious payment is accepted, that the claims of justice are all satisfied, that no charge remains against us. Teach us plainly in this fact that the devil's sceptre is shattered, and his wrongful throne levelled. He held Jesus for a little space. He put forth all his strength to detain Him. But vain were his uttermost efforts. The conqueror shouts, I am the resurrection and the life : he that believeth in

Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live : and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.

Holy Father, may we be begotten again by the Spirit unto a lively hope by this resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for them who are kept by Thy mighty power through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Give us the assurance that in Him we died; in Him we endured all punishment; in Him we made full atonement; and in Him we rise again. Give us to know that in His life we live; in His victory we are victorious; in His triumphs we triumph; in His glory we shall be glorified.

Suffer the fear of death no more to bring us into bondage. Jesus hath destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. He hath delivered us from its chains. He hath abolished this last enemy. Give us grace, then, to

raise the anticipating shout, O grave, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?

Help us to live as verily one with our risen Lord. May we seek those things which are above. May we set our affections no more on things below, knowing that we are dead and our life is hid with Christ in God. May we mortify our members which are on earth, constantly looking for the appearing of the great God and our Saviour, who will change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.

O Thou Holy Spirit, who didst raise up the Lord Jesus from the dead, dwell within us, we pray Thee, in all Thy reviving fulness. Quicken us to liveliness in all our holy services. May we feel that because He lives we live also. We know that Christ being raised from the dead, dieth no more. In that He died, He died unto sin once, but in that He liveth,

He liveth unto God. So may we in Him die unto all sin, and in Him live a resurrection-life of righteousness and true holiness.

Be with all the faithful ambassadors who are going forth to preach Jesus and the resurrection. Open their mouths that they may speak with all boldness, realising the glory of their grand message. And may multitudes, now dead in trespasses and sins, and imprisoned in the grave of iniquity, awake at their call, and arise from the dead and receive life from Christ. Thus may the tidings of the resurrection achieve grand victories this day. We ask all for the sake of Him who died, and revived, and rose again, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EASTER DAY.

EVENING.

O THOU mighty Saviour, very and eternal God, this day we have been looking unto Thee as our living Head. Now again, before we separate, we would lift up our eyes. Meet us in all Thy grace, as the author of complete salvation. Visit us in all the brightness of Thy reviving glory. May we know more and more the power of this Thy resurrection. By its full belief may we be raised from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness. In it may we receive assurance that our bodies too shall rise again.

In spirit we have this day searched the sepulchre, and are certified that Thou art not there, but art risen. We have heard the Father's welcome, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee. It has been our humble desire to joy in Thy joy, to glory in Thy glory,

and in our praises to crown Thee Lord of all.

And now again we bless Thee and adore. We thank Thee that for our sins Thou hast died. We thank Thee that for our justification Thou art raised again. We bless Thee, that in Thee we are complete.

How great was Thy goodness in undertaking our redemption—in consenting to be made sin for us—and in encountering all our foes ! How great was Thy strength in enduring all the extremities of divine wrath, and taking away the load of all our iniquities ! How great was Thy love in manifesting Thyself alive, that our every fear might vanish—our every doubt might be removed—and that we might know assuredly that Thy sacrifice was accepted, and that the remission of our guilt was consummated.

Enable us to go forward during the remaining days of our earthly pilgrimage leaning on Thee our living Saviour. Great indeed would have been our desolation,

if we had not been cheered with evidence that death could not detain Thee. It is because Thou dost live, that grace lives within us. May thy life impart strength to us more and more. Be thou ever by our side. May the light of Thy countenance be our joy and support. May the whispers of Thy love be heavenly melody in our hearts. May our affections burn within us, while we contemplate Thy glorious triumphs for us.

Baptize our souls in the rich consolations which flow from Thee as the resurrection and the life. Teach us the mighty power of the sure word, Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Strengthen us to fight the good fight of faith, in happy knowledge that Thou hast triumphed over all the hosts of darkness. May we advance towards heaven,

setting our feet on the necks of enemies laid low by Thee. May we resist with Thy high praises on our lips. As Thou hast prevailed for us, so may we prevail in Thee. As Thou hast revived for us, live now we pray Thee within us, and make our hearts Thy chosen home.

Thou source of our life, manifest that Thou art a risen Lord, by working wonders among the children of men. Go forth conquering and to conquer. Claim thy people as Thine own. Wrest them from the devil's cruel grasp. Bring them to Thy knowledge. Show them Thy hands and Thy side. Reveal to them Thy precious death and glorious resurrection. May it be seen throughout earth's length and breadth, that Thy gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

We pray on this Thy rising day especially for the lost sheep of Israel's scattered house. Take the veil from their eyes that they may see Thy love, Thy

power, Thy glory. May they read in the great fact of this day the fulfilment of ancient prophecies, and the accomplishment of prefiguring types. Bring them back, blessed Lord, to Thy flock. Hasten the time when there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd, and all shall lie down in the green pastures of Thy salvation.

May the beds to which we now retire remind us of our near graves. May we look towards them with tranquil smile, knowing that at thy voice our bodies too shall rise again. We close our united Easter prayers, adoring Thee, that Thou hast abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light. For all Thy work for us we thank Thee. For all the joy, wherewith we joy in Thee, we thank Thee. For all our means of grace and hopes of glory, we thank Thee. Glory be to Thee, O Lord Jesu Christ, our Saviour! Amen.

ASCENSION DAY.

MORNING.

WE approach Thee, O our God, this morning, with especial praises on our lips. We would join the whole company of heaven in shouting, Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. We laud and magnify Thy holy name, that Thou hast exalted Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, with great triumph unto Thy kingdom in heaven.

Expand our hearts, and cause them to overflow with the joys of the ascension. We bless Thee for the glorious contemplations to which we are now especially invited. May we draw near in spirit, and see our adorable Redeemer, who for us was lifted up upon the cross, now lifted up to the heaven of heavens. May we see Him who, as the Man of sorrows, was crowned with thorns, now as the Lord of

life, crowned with all glory. What could be deeper than the shame—more bitter than the agony—more cruel than the death! What can be higher than the exaltation—more triumphant than the return, more glorious than the life!

Quicken our faith to see the majestic ascent,—the hosts of attending angels—the welcome at the portals of heaven. Enable us with open eyes to gaze on the triumphant car, and mark all the enemies of our salvation dragged as captives, fast bound to the victorious wheels. Open our ears to drink in Thy words assigning the seat to Him: Sit Thou on my right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. May we gaze on Him invested with all authority and power—receiving the government upon His shoulders—and taking the sceptre of mediatorial rule.

O blessed day! Happy ascension! We adore Thee, our Lord and our King, living and reigning to consummate our full salvation. We rejoice to see Thee,

in our nature, seated on Thy throne on high. What strength to our faith ! what delight to our hearts ! what rapture to our souls ! Thou ever livest to make intercession for us.

Our prayers, then, will be ever heard. May we pray with more undoubting confidence. Our praises will be ever welcomed. May we praise Thee with redoubled warmth. Daily, hourly do we sin. But our sins will all be pardoned ; for we have an Advocate in the courts above, Jesus Christ the righteous ; and He is the propitiation for our sins. He presents the unanswerable plea of His death. He extends His wounded hands. The hands which were pierced are the hands which pour down gifts. He withheld not Himself. What, then, can He keep back ! We now have assurance that we shall be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.

Blessed Jesu, we acknowledge before all heaven and all earth, that Thou couldst not do more for us. Thou didst

come down from heaven to redeem us. Thou art ascended that we too should ascend. Thy death is our life. Thy resurrection is our justification. Thine ascension is our hope. Thy return will be our eternal triumph.

Holy Father, give wings to our adoring love, that we may also in heart and mind mount to the heaven of heavens, and ever live with our exalted Lord. He is our treasure. He is to us the chief among ten thousand, the altogether lovely. Where our treasure is, where our beloved is, grant that there our affections may be also riveted. While the head is in perfect purity, suffer not the members to grovel in the filth and follies of this sin-soiled earth. While the bridegroom reigns in glory, suffer not the bride to trifle with this world's polluted pleasures.

O Lord, our exalted King, the heavens have received Thee until the times of restitution of all things. Oh when will it be! Hasten, we pray, the blissful day.

The groaning earth, travailing in bondage, cries, Come. The Spirit and the bride cry, Come. We this day unite in the fervent cry, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

But while Thy chariot-wheels delay, give us more and more of the joy and strength of Thy presence. May we live in spirit with Thee until we see Thy sign in the heavens, and raise the shout, Lo ! this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us : this is the Lord ; we have waited for Him ; we will be glad, and rejoice in His salvation. Amen.

WHIT SUNDAY.

MORNING.

HEAVENLY Father, we pray Thee by the coming of the Holy Ghost, give ear unto our morning cry. We earnestly beseech Thee, that we may be very temples of His perpetual indwelling, and that His graces may wholly replenish our souls. As the sun is full of light, as the ocean is full of drops, as the heavens are full of glory, so may we be filled with His presence.

Vain are all Thy purposes of love, vain is the redemption purchased by Jesus, except He shall work within us. Here then we present our longing hearts to Thee. It is our desire that they may be His abode for ever.

We beseech Thee that the Spirit of the Lord may enter in—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding—the Spirit of counsel and might—the Spirit of knowledge and

of the fear of the Lord; and may He make us of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.

Oh that we might be entirely regenerated by His power—quickenened unto newness of life—created anew after God in righteousness and true holiness.

We know that by nature we are dead in trespasses and sins. We owe it wholly to His mighty love, if we are begotten again to spiritual existence, and have received eyes to see Jesus in the glories of redemption. It is His free gift if we discern the realities of the unseen world. If too our ears have been opened to hear the heavenly call, and to respond, It is the voice of our Beloved—if our hearts have been warmed with love and throb with adoration—if our feet run with delight in the narrow way of life, it is because we have been visited with His almighty and distinguishing grace.

We bring the tribute of devout thanksgiving. But we thirst for more. We supplicate for more. We are not strait-

ened in Thee, O Thou great and glorious Jehovah. To fill us to the overflowing would not diminish Thine inexhaustible riches. Streams ever descending to us would leave Thy fountain unimpaired. Give us, then, give us, we pray Thee, more, much more, of Thy Holy Spirit. He was given without measure to the Head. May He be given without measure to the members of the mystic body.

We bewail our coldness, our poverty, our empty hearts, our imperfect vision, our languid services, our prayerless prayers, our praiseless praises. How different are we from what we would be! How different are we from what we might be! Come, Holy Ghost, Thy sevenfold gifts impart. Suffer us not, we pray Thee, to grieve or to resist Thee. We adore Thee as almighty God. Put forth, then, the strength of Thine omnipotence. Expel every rebellious lust. Take Thy holy seat on the throne within us. Reign supreme. Claim us and keep us as Thine own for ever.

Especially be Thou our teacher. It is Thy province to lead us into all truth. We supplicate Thine unction, that we may know all things needful for life and godliness.

We bless Thee for Thy holy Scriptures. We receive each word as given directly by Thine inspiration. In Thy light may we see light. Shine upon the sacred page. Instruct us in the glorious meaning. Write the transforming gospel on our hearts. Mould us in the Bible frame. Make us ever redolent of the Bible truth.

Come too, we implore Thee, as our comforter. Many are our troubles from without and from within. We often mourn in our prayers and are vexed. We find that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of heaven. But give us the joy of Thy presence. Cheer us by revelations of Jesus. Keep the glories of the end before us, and we shall endure, rejoicing in Thy holy succour.

Above all, sanctify us wholly, body, soul, and spirit. May every thought, and word, and work be consecrated to the glory of our God. May it be seen in us that Thou dost work, and none can let; and that Thou art meetening a people for the kingdom of heaven.

Arise in our behalf. Come forth to our help. Put forth Thy strength to bless and save us. And to Thy great name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be everlasting praise ! Amen.

WHIT SUNDAY.

EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, whose tender love surpasses thought, we desire to close this day in united praise for all Thy goodness. Especially we thank Thee for adding to all Thy blessings the gift of the Holy Ghost. By Him we adore Thee in the name of Jesus. By Him through Jesus we ascribe all glory unto Thy holy name. We bless Thee for Him, the author and giver of light and life. May His work be more enlightening, more enlivening in our hearts.

We delight in the records of His gracious power. Thy earliest word reveals His wondrous agency. When the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, Thy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters. Beauty and order sprang out of unsightly

confusion. Oh, that He would now move upon the face of this sin-soiled, this disordered world ! Then loveliness would brightly shine, and holiness would wave its peaceful wand, and the spiritual desert would rejoice and blossom as the rose, and the fruits of righteousness would spring up and flourish and abound. Holy Father, cause Thy Spirit to introduce a new creation to the praise of the glory of Thy grace.

We mark His manifestation to the infant Church. In spirit we hear a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. We see the descent of tongues like as of fire. We hear the gospel preached to men of every nation. We conclude that it is Thy will that the testimony of Jesus should have free course and be glorified. But darkness still shrouds the earth. Multitudes are perishing for lack of knowledge. The feet of them that bring good tidings, that publish peace, are not beautifully seen upon the distant mountains. Gracious

Father, send forth Thy Holy Spirit to raise up a noble host of faithful messengers. Cause Him to fill their hearts with the love of Thy dear Son ; to brace them with indomitable zeal ; to give them burning words, and courage which nothing can subdue. May He give the word and bless the word, and from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same Thy name shall be great among men ; and in every place incense shall be offered unto Thee and a pure offering. Zeal for Thy glory constrains us. We beseech Thee that Thy Spirit may hasten the blessed day.

We humbly put Thee in remembrance that these are the days of the ministration of the Spirit. We sigh that His presence may be more deeply and more widely felt. We pray especially that our hearts may be His abiding home. May He dwell in us, and move in us, and guide our every thought, and direct our every step, and speak in our every word. May we be wholly occupied by the indwelling God. May our godly and godlike con-

versation evidence the mainspring of our inner man.

We pray that He may entirely fill every preacher and every teacher. May no sound be heard from any pulpit but as suggested by His revealing light. May He be present in every school, and sit in every teacher's chair, and supply the whole instruction.

We pray, too, that His inworking power may open hearts to receive the pure testimony. May He cause it to take deep root unto salvation. Except He arise to our help, all our efforts are but as a tinkling cymbal. Holy Father, hear our cry, and make Thy ministering servants effectual instruments in His glorious hands.

We would bring before Thee the great societies which Thou hast been pleased to raise up. May Thy Spirit direct all their counsels, suggest all their plans, give success to all their operations. May He make them wholly spiritual. Thus may they seek nothing but Thy glory, and attempt nothing but in meek de-

pendence on Thy power. Sanctify the projects which they shall devise, and the means which they shall use.

Thus we lie low before Thee, praying for Pentecostal blessings. Thou hast given Thy dear Son. We thank Thee. Thou hast promised Thy Holy Spirit. We beseech Thee, do as Thou hast said. Let not our hardness resist Him. Let not our ingratitude quench His love. May He magnify His glory by being glorified in us. We earnestly pray in filial confidence, pleading the name and work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TRINITY SUNDAY.

MORNING.

WE come together this morning to ascribe glory unto Thee, O heavenly Father; glory unto Thee, O blessed Jesu; glory unto Thee, O holy and eternal Spirit. We humbly worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, the God of our salvation. We prostrate ourselves in the deepest reverence before the revelation of this wondrous truth. We seek not curiously to pry into the mystery. But we receive it with entire faith, because the Word declares it.

We adore Thee, O Father, as God and Lord. We adore Thee, O Jesu, as God and Lord. We adore Thee, O Holy Spirit, as God and Lord. And yet we adore not three Gods or three Lords, but one God and one Lord.

But especially we adore Thee for gracious concurrence in bringing us poor

sinner to Thy knowledge and Thy kingdom. O Father, Thou hast loved us, and sent Thy Son to achieve our uttermost redemption. O Jesu, Thou hast loved us; and hast assumed our nature, and hast shed Thy blood, to wash out all our sins; and hast wrought out perfect righteousness to cover all our unworthiness. O Holy Spirit, Thou hast loved us, and hast entered our dead hearts, implanting spiritual life, and revealing to us the glorious work of Jesus.

Three persons, one God, we bless and praise Thee for love so unmerited, so unspeakable, so wondrous, so mighty to raise us from the misery of the lost, and to exalt us to the bliss and glory of the saved.

O Father, we bless Thee that, in the plenitude of Thy grace, Thou hast given us to Thy beloved Son to be His spouse, His jewels, the sheep of His pasture, His portion for ever. O Jesu, we bless Thee that, in the plenitude of Thy grace, Thou hast accepted us as Thine own;

that Thou hast espoused us unto Thyself; that Thou hast undertaken to sanctify and cleanse us with the washing of water by the Word, and present us unto Thyself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Holy Spirit, we bless Thee that, in the plenitude of Thy grace, Thou dost consent to inhabit our hearts, to subdue their stubbornness, to exhibit Jesus as all salvation, to implant faith, to bring us unto Him, to make us one with Him for ever. All thanks we give that we are elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

Father, we hear Thy voice in Scripture testifying, I will dwell in them, and walk in them. Jesu, we hear Thine assurance, that if we open the door, Thou wilt come in to us, and wilt sup with us. Holy Spirit, we are taught that our bodies are the temples which Thou dost delight to sanctify and to fill.

We adore the wonders of condescending love. We marvel at the high privilege of the true believer. All heaven comes down to dwell within him. He has his abode in God, and God in him. We humbly believe it. Grant us to realise it to the full.

Merciful Father, we thank Thee that Thou art ever seated on a throne of grace, giving ear to our prayers. Jesu, we thank Thee that Thy hands are ever extended to receive our feeble petitions, to perfume them with the rich fragrance of Thy blood, and to present them an acceptable offering. Holy Spirit, we thank Thee that Thou art ever willing to help our infirmities, to show us our need, to supply words, to strengthen us that we faint not in our supplications. Help us to see how wondrous is the exercise of faithful prayer. All heaven is concerned. In it the Triune Jehovah has employ.

We pray that this day we may be more deeply taught how high and heavenly is our calling; how grand and glorious

are our privileges; how sure and bright are our hopes. May we walk worthy of our God. May we duly ponder what manner of persons we ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness. May we verily live as they who have been baptized into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. May we renounce all that our God forbids. May we diligently follow all that our God commands. Thus may the blessing of the Father, the blessing of the Son, the blessing of the Holy Ghost, be our rich inheritance. Hear us, O our God, when this day we acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity; and, in the power of the divine Majesty, worship the Unity. Amen and Amen.

COMMUNION SUNDAY.

MORNING.

HEAVENLY Father, accept our thanksgivings for all the means of grace which Thy mercy has provided. They are the joy and strength of our souls. We see in them Thy loving purpose. It is Thy will that spiritual life should flourish and abound within us. Help us by Thy Holy Spirit to use them all duly, devoutly, gratefully, to Thy praise and our exceeding profit.

This day we would especially magnify Thy goodness for the Sacrament of the body and blood of our beloved Lord. Truly Thy Word is fulfilled, that Thou wilt prepare for Thy people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined.

We confess that we are utterly unworthy to gather up the crumbs under Thy table. How unworthy then are we to sit

down as guests at this heavenly board. But we come not trusting in ourselves, but wholly relying on the merits of Thy dear Son, and hiding all our unworthiness beneath the robe of His glorious righteousness. We hear the tender invitation. We marvel at the wondrous grace. We cannot hesitate. In faith and love we come. Give us a gracious welcome. Refresh and strengthen us with the rich bounties of this feast.

We draw near to behold marvellous things. By Thy Spirit enliven our faith rightly to discern, duly to appreciate, spiritually to apprehend. Thus may we richly grow in grace.

We reverently look. Bread is broken. Wine is poured forth. Write deeply on our hearts the precious meaning. Jesus Christ is evidently set forth crucified before us. In the broken bread we spiritually see His broken body. In the poured out wine we spiritually see the shedding of His blood.

While we humbly gaze, may we

anxiously ponder, Wherefore, blessed Jesu, wherefore didst Thou thus die? May the precious answer sound through every part of our hearts and souls, I die that you may not die. I lay down My life to purchase your life. I present Myself an offering to expiate all your sins. My blood thus streams to wash out all your guilt. The fountain is thus opened in My side to cleanse you from all uncleanness. I thus endure your curse. I thus pay your debt. I thus rescue you from all condemnation. I thus satisfy divine justice for you. See in these elements My body given unto the shame and sufferings of the cross for you.

Father, we know that this sacrament is ordained to exhibit these precious truths. May we tightly grasp the breadth and length of this glorious purport. May our faith expand, and strengthen, and grow mightily. May all fears and doubts be slain. May delighted assurance pervade us. May we verily believe, that full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, obla-

tion, and satisfaction, are for ever made. May we glory more and more in Christ our everlasting salvation.

But we are called to draw nearer yet. We hear the voice of our great Lord, Eat, drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. We gladly come forward to obey. We extend the hand. We take the bread. We receive the cup. We eat. We drink.

Thus we humbly testify before all heaven and before all earth, that we do personally and for ourselves, gladly, in faith, and reverence, and love, receive our blessed Jesus to be the life, the strength, the nourishment, the joy, the delight of our souls. We profess that we feed on Him and Him crucified, as all our hope, salvation, and desire.

Blessed Jesu, at Thy table may all the benefits of Thy cross and passion, may all the glories of Thine accomplished redemption, be sealed to our souls. We do all that Thy sacrament prescribes in remembrance of Thee.

We remember Thine eternal love. We remember Thy boundless grace. We remember Thine infinite compassions. We remember Thine agony and bloody sweat. We remember all that Thou hast done for us. We remember Thy call to this most hallowed ordinance. And we pray that Thou wilt remember us.

As we participate may we verily feel that we are one with Thee, and Thou art one with us. As the outward elements nourish our bodies, may Thine indwelling presence invigorate and bless our souls. Thus feed us until we hunger no more. We look to the day when Thou the Lamb in the midst of the throne shalt feed us and lead us unto living fountains of water. Hear. Answer. Amen.

COMMUNION SUNDAY.

EVENING.

O THOU Lord and Saviour of our souls, in obedience to Thy gracious calling, we have this day partaken of the sacramental bread, and drank the sacramental cup. We thank Thee that on the same night in which Thou wast betrayed Thou didst institute this holy ordinance, ever to exhibit Thy dying love. We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed that in it Thy people shall show forth Thy death until Thy return. We thank Thee that the high privilege has been ours of thus gazing on Thee as making atonement for us on the cross.

Hear our prayer, that all the blessings of this sacred service may be sealed to our souls. May our faith be mightily revived, our hopes invigorated, our souls strengthened for more devoted work. Send richer and larger supplies of Thy

Holy Spirit, that we may keep constantly in devout remembrance what solemn vows are ours, what high profession we have made. Increase our watchfulness. Stir up more vigorous diligence. Grant that all who see us may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. May conformity to His image be our conspicuous stamp. May it be seen in us that Thy sacraments are mighty means of grace; that Thou dost indeed visit the souls of all who communicate in faith; that Thy presence is truly vouchsafed to their longing hearts; and that the flame of adoring love is largely brightened.

Help us in our future days, if future days be ours, to ponder the holy spectacle of this rite. We have seen the greatness of the price whereby Thou hast redeemed us from the torments of the lost, from the vengeance due unto our sins, and from the curse of the infracted law. May we never forget that we are not our own, but that we are bought by Thy most precious

blood. May we ever glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine.

By the clear eye of faith we have looked to Thee, sealing us unto the great day of redemption. We have received the assurance of pardon, of adoption, of heirship with Thee, of heaven, of eternal life, and of participation in all the glory which the Father gave to Thee. May we live henceforth as they who have thus received the earnest of the everlasting covenant. Forbid it that the follies, the trifles, the baubles of this polluted world should occupy our minds or captivate our affections. May our walk be high and heavenly, even as our pledged inheritance.

We have this day renewed a most solemn covenant. Feeding on the memorials of Thy broken body, we have avouched God to be our God, and we have bound ourselves to serve Him in faithfulness, sincerity, and truth all the days of our lives. As obedient children, may we fashion ourselves no more after the course of this evil world, but accord-

ing to the strictest rules of Thy blessed Word. We know that all Thy promises Thou wilt surely keep and perform. May all our promises to Thee be also kept inviolate.

We have this day, looking to the cross, bewailed our hateful sins. We have confessed their number, their magnitude, their aggravations. We have testified that the remembrance is grievous and that the burden is intolerable. Arm us with holy resolve to fight more valiantly against them, and never to look back to the paths which we have so solemnly eschewed.

We know that our walk must still be amid the wily snares and constant assaults of the devil. His hatred is most keen against those who avow themselves to be Thine. After Thy most holy baptism, he approached Thee with his deadliest arts. May we be on our guard. As Thou didst conquer, so may we conquer, using the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Blessed Lord, hear our sacramental prayer. Draw nearer, oh, draw nearer to us. Enable us to walk worthy of Thee—Thy love—Thy death—Thy promises. May we live answerably to all our pledges and our vows.

Preserve us as Thy portion, Thy spouse, Thy treasure. And unto Thee, who art able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

ESPECIAL OCCASIONS.

COLLECTS WHICH MAY BE INSERTED IN THE
PRECEDING PRAYERS.

SICKNESS.

WE bring before Thee, merciful Father, in the arms of our faith, that beloved member of our household on whom Thou hast been pleased to lay the hand of sickness. In {^{his}_{her}} chastening we are chastened. In {^{his}_{her}} sufferings we suffer. Give us tender sympathy to watch and to alleviate. In the sick chamber may we be gentleness and love. Grant Thy blessing to all the remedies, which, trusting in Thee, we use. If it be Thy gracious will, arrest the malady, and may the voice of health and gladness again

gladden our dwelling. Especially give patience in all pain and languor, and may the sufferer humbly bless Thy heavenly will, knowing that Thou doest all things well.

SICKNESS UNTO DEATH.

HEAR us in behalf of our beloved one, whom we humbly surrender unto Thee. We read in the increasing malady Thy sovereign will to take {^{him}_{her}} to Thyself. We meekly cry, Thy will be done. We bless Thee for all Thy goodness to {^{him}_{her}} during the days of earthly pilgrimage. Draw nearer now when heart and strength fail. May Thy last mercies upon earth be Thy richest. Suffer not Satan to molest. Whisper sweet peace to the departing spirit. May Thy rod and Thy staff comfort, and grant an abundant entrance into Thy heavenly kingdom.

DEATH.

IN this hour of grievous trial and affliction we flee unto Thee, our God. Thou didst give—we thank Thee. Thou hast taken away—give us grace to bless Thy holy name. In this death may we see the fruit of sin, and may we loathe it with deeper hatred.

Help us to remember that Jesus hath abolished death, and may we love Him more and more. May we hear the rod, and who hath appointed it. Write deeply on our hearts the lessons which this solemn event is loud to teach. Send Thy Spirit to search our inmost souls, and to sever us from every evil way. May the loss for which we weep be our everlasting gain.

BURIAL.

THIS day we bear the remains of our beloved one to the grave. Blessed Jesus,

again makes glad. We thank and bless Thee. Grant that the strength renewed may be wholly consecrated to Thy service. May lengthened days be lengthened praise to Thee. In the restored life of one so dear to us, may we see Thy tender love. May our devoted lives render due praise. May we adore Thee more as a God who answers prayer, and who in the midst of judgments remembers mercy.

BAPTISM.

O FATHER we bless Thee for the infant born into our family. We bless Thee that we have a covenant God unto whom we may bring {^{him}_{her}}. We thank Thee for the holy sacrament in which {^{he}_{she}} may be solemnly presented unto Thee. Receive {^{him}_{her}} according as Thou hast promised by Thy beloved Son. Pour out Thy Spirit upon our seed—Thy blessing upon our offspring. {^{He}_{She}} is dead, except Thou

shalt be pleased to quicken. Make {^{him}_{her}} Thine for ever. Seal {^{him}_{her}} with the Holy Spirit of promise. Accept {^{him}_{her}} as Thine own. May {^{he}_{she}} grow up from this day an heir of God, a joint heir of Christ.

DOMESTIC ANXIETY.

O OUR God, it is our high privilege to cast all our cares upon Thee, for Thou carest for us. Thou hast sent Thy dear Son to bear not only all our sins, but all our burdens too. Thou knowest the trouble which now weighs down our hearts. We spread it before Thee. Give us grace to bear it with humble submission to Thy sovereign will. Supply us with wisdom to endure this trial, so that our souls may prosper. May it work in us the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Suffer no murmurings or impatience to disgrace our heavenly calling. Enable us to keep looking unto Jesus, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,

despising the shame. If there be bitterness in the cup, may we drink it without repining. If there be perplexity in our walk, may we seek Thy guidance, believing that all things shall work together for our good.

JOURNEY.

GUARD, we pray Thee, all who travel this day by land or by water. Especially hear us for those whom kindred or friendship bind to us. Preserve them from all the perils of the way. May Thy protecting wings be spread around them. May the pillar of Thy presence precede. May Thy mercies surround and follow them. Grant that every journey may remind us that we tread this earth as strangers and pilgrims. May we keep our loins girt, our lamps burning, our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, ever ready to take our last step below.

RETURN TO HOME.

THE return in safety, this day, of the beloved members of our household calls for especial praise. O God, Thou hast been with them in their going forth and coming in. From every danger Thou hast been pleased to screen them. Many accidents might have imperilled or destroyed their lives, or filled them with disabling pains. Sorrow might now have been our bitter cup. But with joy we welcome them as preserved by Thy watchful care. Accept the thanks which we devoutly bring. May this arrival remind us that soon we shall rest from all departures and returns. When life's short day is passed, give us to sit down for ever amid the glories of Thy redeemed.

PREVALENT SICKNESS.

O OUR Father, we humble ourselves in

deep contrition before Thee, acknowledging our manifold iniquities as individuals and as a nation. Wrath is gone forth. We confess that our sins have justly provoked Thee. The destroying angel has brought grievous sickness on our guilty land. We tremble and we flee to Thee. Pardon, we beseech Thee. Arrest this fearful pestilence. Recover those on whom its hand is resting. Preserve from its touch those who are still escaped. O Jesu, stand between the living and the dead, that the plague may be stayed. Bring back the voice of health and gladness. So will we bless Thy sparing and restoring love for ever and ever.

CIVIL COMMOTION.

GRACIOUS Lord, troubles and rumours of troubles fill us with dismay. The voice of murmurings and discontent affrights our land. Turbulence has banished our happy tranquillity. We tremble lest civil

disasters should sadden our homes. Arise to our help and save us, O our God. Defeat the evil designs of ungodly men. Give especial wisdom to those who guide ~~our~~ counsels. Make them firm to resist, intelligent to devise the needful remedy, and patient to endure. Allay all angry passion. Calm all ruffled minds. Speak the word, and sweet calm shall then return. Fill us with that righteousness which exalts a nation. Grant that Thy people may dwell in peaceable habitations, in ~~in~~ sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. O Thou God of peace, give us peace always by all means.

DISTRESS OF WEATHER..

FATHER of all goodness, we bless Thee for every circumstance which teaches us our entire dependence on Thee. May all things prosperous and adverse draw us more closely to Thy side. We acknowledge that if our sins should be the measure of

Thy dealings, the heavens over our heads would be brass and iron, and our fields would be locked up in barrenness. But Thou art rich in mercy. Be pleased, we beseech Thee, to send us propitious seasons. Withhold not showers when refreshing rain is needed. Give the ripening rays when the time for the ingathering of our crops is come. Let not adverse weather hinder our labour, or diminish our plenty. Give us seedtime and harvest according to Thy Word.

HARVEST.

FATHER, we adore Thee. Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness. Thy paths drop fatness. Thou hast given Thy blessing to the ingathering of our crops. Our garners are enriched with store. Abundant provision is our portion. How good art Thou! How undeserving are our hearts and lives! But melted by

such loving-kindness, may we devote our lives, which are Thy gracious care, to Thine undivided service. May the rich harvest of our fields quicken us to pray for the harvest of immortal souls. The spiritual field is wide. Send forth labourers to gather in. May we always be looking to the end, when the angels shall be the reapers. Meeten us. Bless us. Receive us as Thine own for ever.

RELIGIOUS MEETING.

THIS day we trust, by Thy good hand upon us, to meet to testify the desire of our souls, that Thy name may be hallowed, and Thy kingdom advanced among the children of men. Give Thine especial blessing to the great Society, the cause of which we shall strive to advocate. Send Thy Holy Spirit to warm and sanctify the hearts of all who shall be present. May thought of self be absent from each speaker. May the name and truth of

Jesus be exalted and made very high !
May heavenly-mindedness be the pervad-
ing tone. May we hear, may we give,
as unto the Lord. May the sweet fra-
grance of a holy meeting cheer and ele-
vate our hearts.

THE END.



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